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## **HULK HOGAN:** **CAN THE FANS EVER FORGIVE HIS PAST TREACHERY?**

**Rich And Sawyer vs.  
The Road Warriors:  
HOW THIS MATCH PROVED  
PAUL ELLERING A GENIUS**

**Jimmy Hart's Plan to  
Destroy The Fabulous Ones:  
"I'LL MAKE KEIRN AND LANE  
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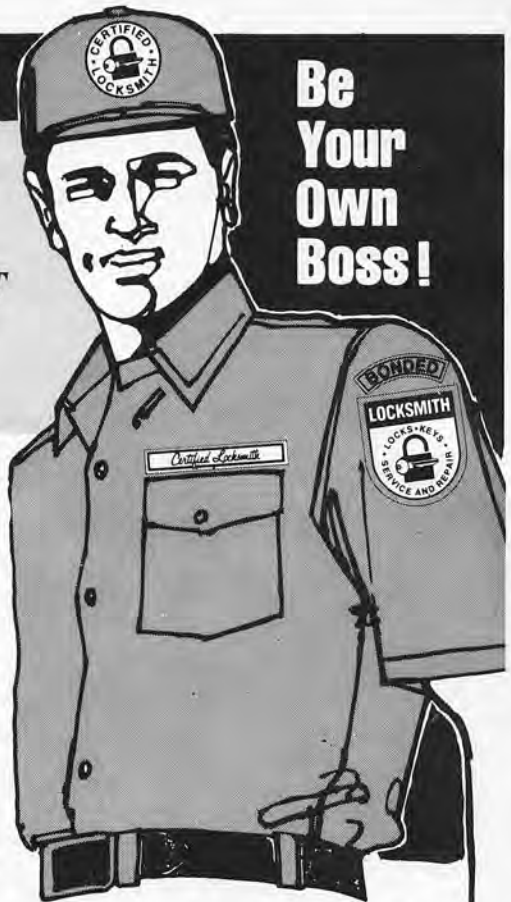


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# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



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PAGE 32: UNFORGETTABLE SINS

Cover and Centerfold  
By Bill Apter

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## ACHIEVEMENT '83

Your year-end awards issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* (March 1984) was fantastic. All the recipients deserved their awards, especially The Road Warriors. They were incredible in 1983. They defeated every team in the Georgia area, and they also beat the NWA World tag team champions, Jack and Jerry Brisco. They deserve those belts, and I'll bet my life that they will get them in the coming year.

My congratulations as well to the other people who received awards.

**GEORGE KRAUSSER**  
Hopatcong, NJ

I am shocked at the results of 1983's Tag Team of the Year ballot. The Road Warriors displayed total disrespect for the officials who govern wrestling, and for the rules of the sport this year. This award only rewards and encourages their actions.

The runners-up in this category are also quite shocking. While the Von Erichs and Freebirds are both excellent

teams, their total obsession with each other should have taken away much more respect for the two teams than it obviously did.

The third runner-up team, Jack and Jerry Brisco, totally destroyed the trust of many of their fans by forsaking the basic rules of wrestling. The Briscos are totally undeserving of that good of a finish, or of the trust of the more than 9,000 fans who voted for them.

**JAMES McHONE**  
Charlotte, NC

I am writing to comment on the March 1984 edition of "King's Court" that featured Lou Thesz and Bruno Sammartino's thoughts on The Grand Wizard winning the *PWI* Editors' Award.

Bruno should think twice about the statements he made in that column. He said that The Grand Wizard doesn't deserve the award because of the things that he did over the course of his career.

Now I don't agree with the things that many scientific wrestlers do. I dislike Jimmy



Snuka, Brett Sawyer, and Hulk Hogan, but I think they deserved the awards they received in the year-end poll.

I was very disturbed by Bruno's comments. I have lost a lot of respect for him as the result of reading this article.

I feel Bruno Sammartino owes an apology to Peter King and to the other editors of your great magazine regarding the presentation of the 1983 Editors' Award.

**DAN WAGNER**  
South Amboy, NJ

## BRAVO BILLY

I would like to say that I enjoy *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* very much, but I would like to see more coverage on great Pacific Northwest wrestlers such as Billy Jack, Curt Hennig, Playboy Buddy Rose, Al Madril, Jules Strongbow, Brian Adidas,

Jerry O, and Jimmy Afi.

I would also like to say something about a recent match that made me think twice about how much talent we have in the Northwest.

It was a match between then-NWA World champion Harley Race and Pacific Northwest

heavyweight champion Billy Jack. The match was a best of three falls confrontation. In the first fall, Billy was in control all the way, but Race managed to score a pin by pulling on Billy's trunks. Billy won the second fall by using his full-nelson (which

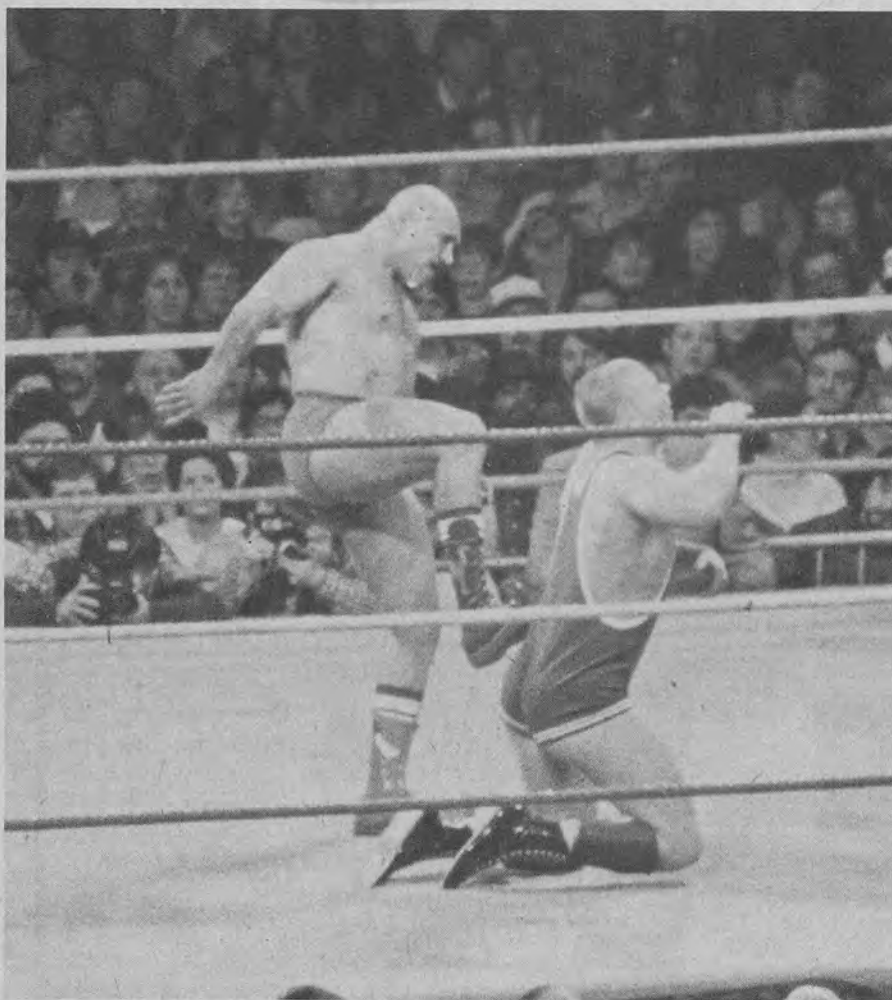
(Continued on page 64)





# RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter



The Iron Sheik focuses his attack on Bob Backlund's injured back (above). The Sheik celebrates his victory, as Arnold Skoaland, carrying the towel he threw into the ring to stop the match, helps Backlund through the ropes (right).

**T**HERE'S A NEW WWF heavyweight champion. **The Iron Sheik**, a veteran professional and a former member of the Iranian Olympic team, defeated **Bob Backlund** on December 26 in New York's Madison Square Garden, ending Backlund's title reign two month's before its sixth anniversary.

Several days prior to that match, Backlund had been hurt

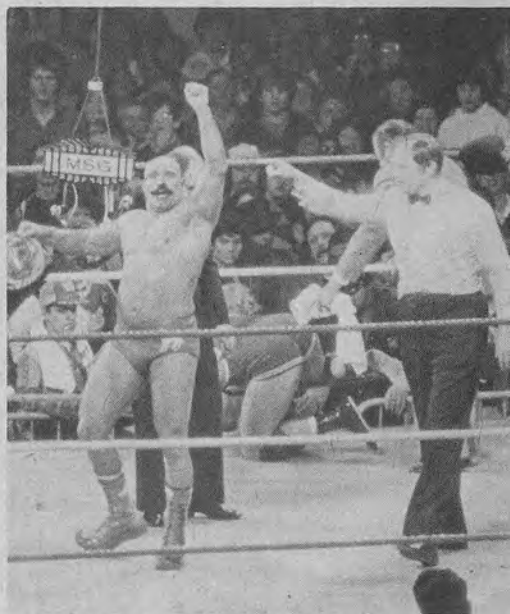
while trying to perform the Sheik's exercise regimen of swinging the Iranian exercise clubs over his head. Iron Sheik attacked Backlund during the exercise, injuring his neck, shoulders, and left arm.

In New York, Backlund entered the ring favoring his arm. As **Ayatollah Fred Blassie** sat at ringside and offered encouragement, The Iron Sheik claimed an early advantage and systemati-

cally proved his superiority over the injured champion.

At the 11:50 mark, **Arnold Skoaland** threw in the towel from Backlund's corner; Sheik had trapped Backlund in the camel clutch, and Skoaland was worried that it might cause permanent neck and shoulder injuries to the champion.

As referee **Dick Kroll** presented the WWF belt to The Iron Sheik, Blassie ran around the ring in utter jubilation—Blassie has managed WWF tag team champions, but the highly coveted heavy-weight title has always eluded him.



Many fans on hand in Madison Square Garden were completely stunned, and in fact believed that the title would be returned to Backlund on a technicality—but no technicalities here. Iron Sheik is the new champion.

(Continued on page 48)



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# KING'S COURT

By Peter King



Bruno Sammartino, wrestling with a broken right arm, summoned his tremendous courage to wrestle and successfully defend his WWF title against Waldo Von Erich in 1975. Bob Backlund showed equal courage as champion.

**C**OURAGE IS A word that can be described in millions of ways, many of them wrong. Courage is not standing up and running into a hail of enemy machine-gun fire; that's stupidity. Courage is not getting into a fight with someone you know is weaker; that's being a bully.

Bob Backlund has courage. As a wrestler, and as a man. Sure, some of you may point a finger at him at laugh because of how

he sobbed uncontrollably in the dressing room after losing the WWF title to The Iron Sheik. "Men don't cry," you may say. But sometimes, the most courageous thing a man can do is to let the world see his emotions, no matter how pitiful some people may think he looks.

In his loss to Iron Sheik, Backlund entered the ring at less than full strength. But I know neither Bob nor his manager, Arnold

Skoaland, would use this as an excuse. Injuries are something champions must live with. For instance, Bruno Sammartino, when he was WWF champion, once stepped into the ring with a broken arm and successfully defended his title against Waldo Von Erich. On another occasion, Bruno's neck was broken by Stan Hansen during a match. Still, Sammartino battled on and left the ring that night with the belt strapped around his waist.

But no champion can succeed all the time with serious injury. Bruno, a Living Legend, was an exception to the rule. But none of this detracts from Backlund's courage.

Entering the ring knowing you have a serious injury is the true test of courage. Backlund could have canceled his match with Sheik, but he didn't. He felt that would be letting his fans down. I think some of the intense sadness Bob felt after the match was the realization that perhaps he had let his fans down even more by wrestling Sheik with injuries to his back, arm, and ribs suffered in a previous attack by the Sheik. I guess Backlund hoped that the excitement and importance of a title defense would get the adrenaline flowing. Maybe he thought he would be able to ignore the pain. Of course, the Sheik also knew of Backlund's injuries, and he took advantage with his excruciatingly painful camel clutch.

Backlund must have felt as if his back was being broken as Sheik pulled back on the clutch. Skoaland, perhaps realizing that Bob was in such intense pain that he couldn't even utter the words "I give up," threw a towel into the ring, signaling surrender. Some fans have said that Skoaland should be held responsible for Backlund's loss, but I disagree. Arnold has been around

*(Continued on page 50)*



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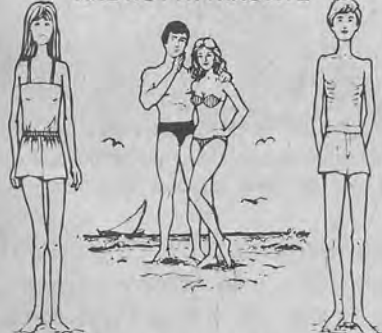
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# DRESSING ROOM

## CONFIDENTIAL

By Stu Saks

I DON'T RECALL the journey from my press seat at Madison Square Garden to The Iron Sheik's dressing room. My legs instinctively took me there, but my brain was still numb from what I had witnessed just minutes earlier.

It would become more numb.

It was a time for celebration, so I have to assume that I was witnessing a celebration. It was nothing like the celebration you and I are used to seeing in the dressing rooms of World Series or Super Bowl champions. There was no screaming for joy, no champagne flowing, seemingly no joy at all. When I first walked through the door, everyone was kneeling in prayer. After that there was an awful lot of crying. It seemed as if I had stumbled across an Iranian funeral.

Fred Blassie, the *Ayatollah* Fred Blassie, spotted me looking on in wonderment. Blassie, wearing the traditional Arab *kaffiyeh* on his head, had taken part in the prayer ritual, but somehow he couldn't force himself to cry, as the Sheik's entourage of *legitimate* Iranians were. Blassie was a happy man, and he could not hide the fact. He had been seeking the WWF title as either a wrestler or a manager since the early 1970s, and he had finally achieved his goal. He slapped me



The Iron Sheik displays his loyalty to Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini. More for his political stand and his association with Fred Blassie than his wrestling style, the Sheik has earned the number eight position in our Most Hated ratings.

on the back, rattling my spinal cord. "Ha, ha, ha! [oh, how I hate when he laughs in that gravelly voice of his], the ways of the Iranians have you a little confused, don't they, Saks, ha, ha, ha!"

Blassie, as inconsiderate as

any man I have ever met, did not care that his laughter was interfering with the prevailing mood around him. "I can't expect a geek reporter like you to understand the ways of the great peo-

(Continued on page 54)



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## ROCKY JOHNSON

"Tony Atlas and I are working harder than ever. You can't just sit back on a title and enjoy it. It's a lot of work. There are a lot of people, especially Lou Albano and The Samoans, who would like nothing better than to see us let up on our training a little. We're not gonna give them a chance to get the WWF belts back."



## KEN PATERA

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## TED DIBIASE

"Okay, world, let it be known that I, Ted DiBiase, without any help from anyone, ran Tommy Rich, 'Mr. Teen Idol,' out of professional wrestling for good. I can just see all the little girls sitting at home crying into their pillows. But don't worry, you'll still be able to see Tommy perform, bagging groceries at your local supermarket."

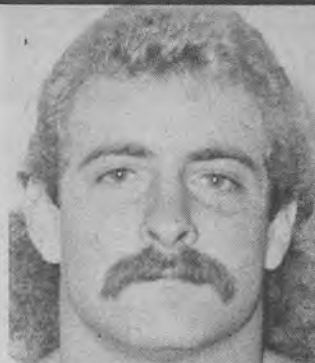




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**TERRY "MAGNUM T.A." ALLEN**

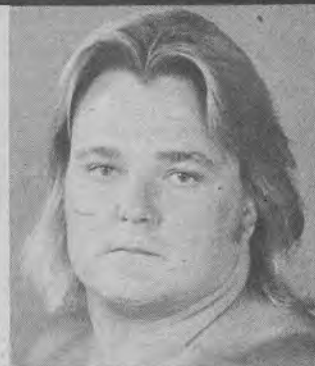
"Mr. Wrestling II is my coach, but he isn't my manager. I appreciate all the help he's given me, and I think his help has made a difference in my wrestling, but he can't tell me who I can and can't wrestle with. If I want to wrestle in tag team matches with Lanny Poffo, I will, no matter what II says to me. I've gotta live my own life."



---

**GREG VALENTINE**

"Dick Slater has no right to call himself U.S. champion. He tricked me into getting the title shot, and his pal Bob Orton was responsible for my loss. I never signed for a No-Disqualification Match with Slater. He tricked me into wrestling him and then had his friend interfere in the match so he could win. I swear I'll get that belt back."



---

**HECTOR GUERRERO**

"Money talks. D'ya know what it says? It says, 'I can give you everything you've ever wanted.' It took me a while to listen, but finally I realized that my new manager, Gentleman Jim Holliday was saying some pretty intelligent things. Now I have the bucks and I'm a happy man. Don't let anyone tell you that money doesn't buy happiness. It does."



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**PAUL ELLERING**

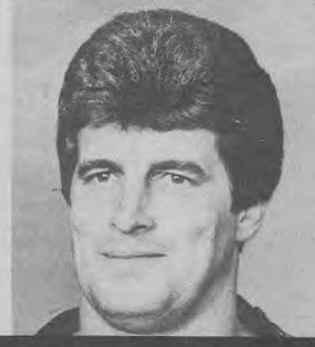
"I am the man who brings excitement to World Championship Wrestling. I have given the fans the honor of watching the National tag team champions, The Road Warriors, week after week on national TV. I am responsible for Jake Roberts' incredible success, and I have brought the fire-throwing Sheik back from his self-imposed exile. Where would this sport be without me?"



---

**TONY GAREA**

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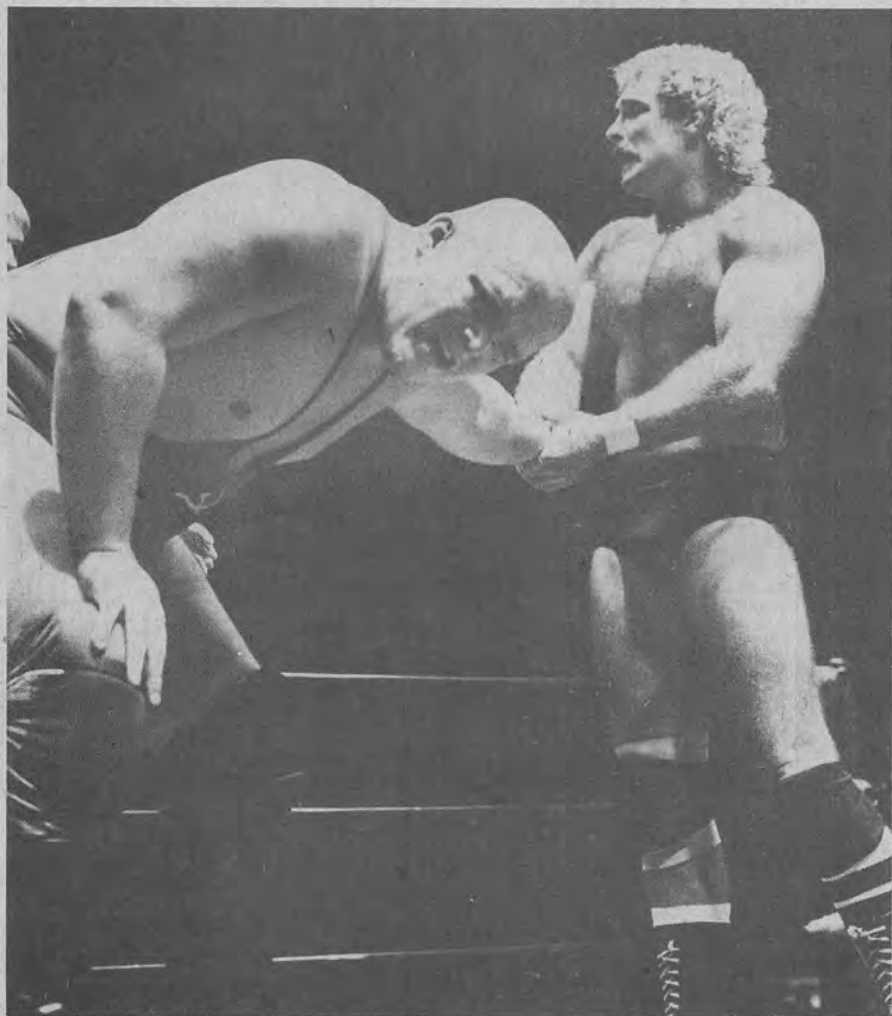
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# A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Terry "Magnum T.A." Allen looks for Mr. Wrestling II's advice from ringside as he twists the arm of Boris Zurekhov.

**T**ERRY ALLEN, the man who calls himself "Magnum T.A.," is the kind of a man who prides himself on many things.

For one thing, he prides himself on his physique. That's part of the reason he adopted the name "Magnum T.A." It's an open recognition of the glamour and charisma that develops from the awesome combination of his natural good looks and his constantly improving physique.

For another thing, he prides himself on his honesty and fair-mindedness, and it is those qualities that have come under great stress in recent months.

"It's kind of difficult for me, because I consider Lanny Poffo a friend of mine," Magnum said during a recent interview at his home in Chesapeake, Virginia. "I don't like to criticize someone like Mr. Wrestling II. He's done a great job as my adviser, and he's given

me some excellent suggestions regarding my wrestling style. I don't like to say it, considering the man's reputation and his vast knowledge and experience, but I really think he's wrong about this."

What Magnum is referring to is a statement by Wrestling II regarding Lanny Poffo. You see, Lanny's father, Angelo, was a hated rule-breaker for many years. Randy Savage, Lanny's brother, has inherited his father's style.

When Magnum T.A. said he wanted to tag team with Lanny Poffo, Wrestling II came out and said that Lanny's family was no good, that Lanny could be a bad influence on Magnum's career.

"I know all about Lanny's family," Magnum said, "and it doesn't bother me a bit. I was sitting down with Wrestling II one day, and we were watching a tape of Randy Savage in Kentucky. He was brutal as hell, tearing up guys' heads, beating them senseless. The announcer said something about Randy 'holding contempt and hatred for his fellow wrestlers.' I know all about him."

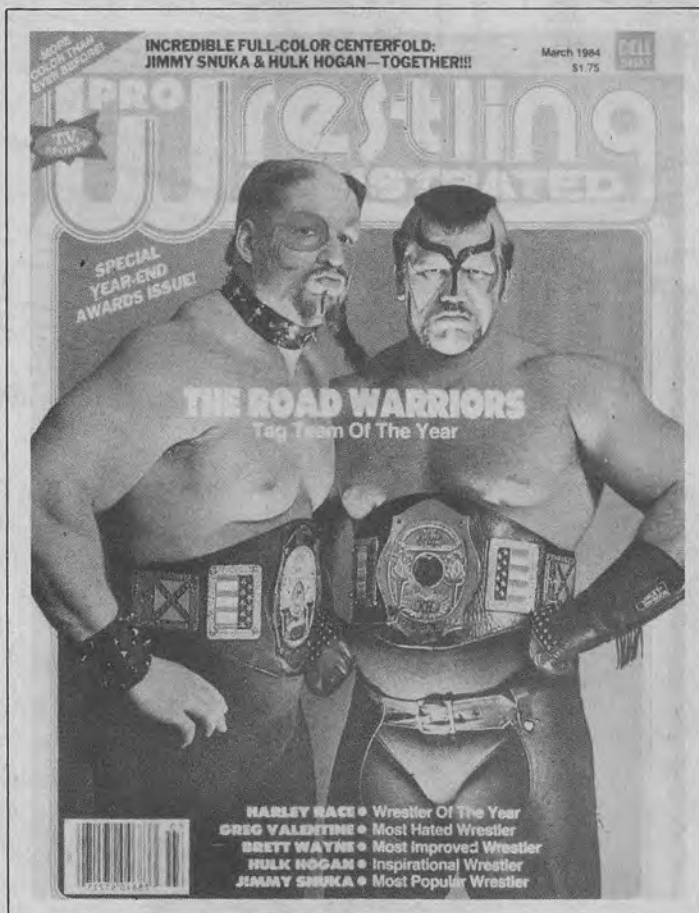
But doesn't it make Magnum just a little bit nervous to know that Lanny's brother could be so sadistically cruel?

"Hey, I never claimed to be a policeman for professional wrestling," Magnum said. "What Randy does is his own business. If and when he starts attacking me, then I'll *make* him my business. But as for Randy and Lanny being brothers, I don't think that's any problem. Cain and Abel came

*(Continued on page 58)*



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# OFF THE O ROPE

**By Dan Shocket**



It's hard to tell whether David Von Erich is celebrating a victory or crying about a defeat. His face always looks the same in both instances.

*WITHOUT ANY FURTHER*  
ado, we begin with your completions to the sentence "Kerry, David, and Kevin Von Erich are most like Moe, Larry, and Curly because . . .

. . . you can't take either team seriously, but they're great for laughs. Although the Three Stooges were more intelligent, the Von Erichs have funnier hairstyles. The major difference is that the Three Stooges were just an act, while the Von Erichs are bona fide klutzes.

DONALD S. LORD  
Middletown, CT

. . . they are stupid, clumsy, foolish, and ridiculously awful. If you combined their IQs, the number you would get would be lower than the wind chill factor in Antarctica.

STEPHEN CARUSO  
Columbia, MD

. . . they all make a great deal of stupid mistakes, their physiques are very much the same, and in the eyes of a true fan all of their actions receive nothing but laughter.

STEVE HORNATKO  
Glen Burnie, MD

. . . their wrestling ability is no





Why is it that it wouldn't surprise me to see Kerry hit Kevin with the back of his hand and go, "who, who, who!"?

greater. They wrestle like idiots and make excuses after every match. David said he would quit if they banned the claw. I know how to make them all quit—ban whining!

EDDIE HICKS  
Staten Island, NY

... they are unstable mentally, they whine when they can't have their way or when they lose, and they can't understand they're doomed to failure.

VONSHA BROWN  
Columbus, GA

... both teams are jokes to the human race. What the heck, let the Von Erich sisters come up to the WWF. Karen, Karla, and Donna could join Roberta Backlund in providing us with examples of ineptitude and mediocrity in wrestling here in the WWF.

SCOOTER LIVINGSTON  
Bridgewater, MA

... when they get together, their opponents wish they could watch the trio clown around. David-Moe gets mad and his eyes pop out like egg yolks. Kerry-Curly has the innocent look that betrays he's the stupidest of the trio. Kevin-Larry has the moves of a sabre-toothed grandma of 1949. If The Fabulous Freebirds hadn't been laughing so

hard, the Von Stoogies would never have won the belts.

CLIFFORD S. THOMPSON  
JOHNNY D. JEFFRIES  
Lexington, NC

... because of the pathetic way they try to do things. Their bumbling idiocy is a tribute to Three Stooges comedy.

CHUCK EATON  
Troy, NY

... they have their heads pounded on time after time and still can't realize they're nothing but bums. They're foolish enough to think



Kerry is probably on the phone with one of his brothers. He looks like he's asleep.

they can compete with The Freebirds. Need any more be said?

JOHN SHELDON  
Crandon, WI

Dear Dan,

How dare you compare the Von Erich brothers to Larry, Moe, and Curly? The Three Stooges were masters of their field, which is a lot more than I can say about the Von Erichs. I demand that you apologize to the fans of Moe, Larry, and Curly for comparing them to such lowlife wormsline.

IRWIN TAJER  
Oakdale, NY

Dear Mr. Shocket,

I am outraged over your latest contest! How dare you compare the immortal Stooges with the Von Erich scum. I feel you owe the many Stooges fans an apology!

ANDREW WEBER  
Baldwin, NY

Dear Messrs. Tager and Weber,

Your point is well taken. I meant no disrespect to the Stooges, famous and beloved men in their field. Certainly they deserve much more respect than the Von Erichs. This contest was in no way intended to besmirch the memory of the Stooges by making odious comparisons to the ineffectual Von Erichs. □

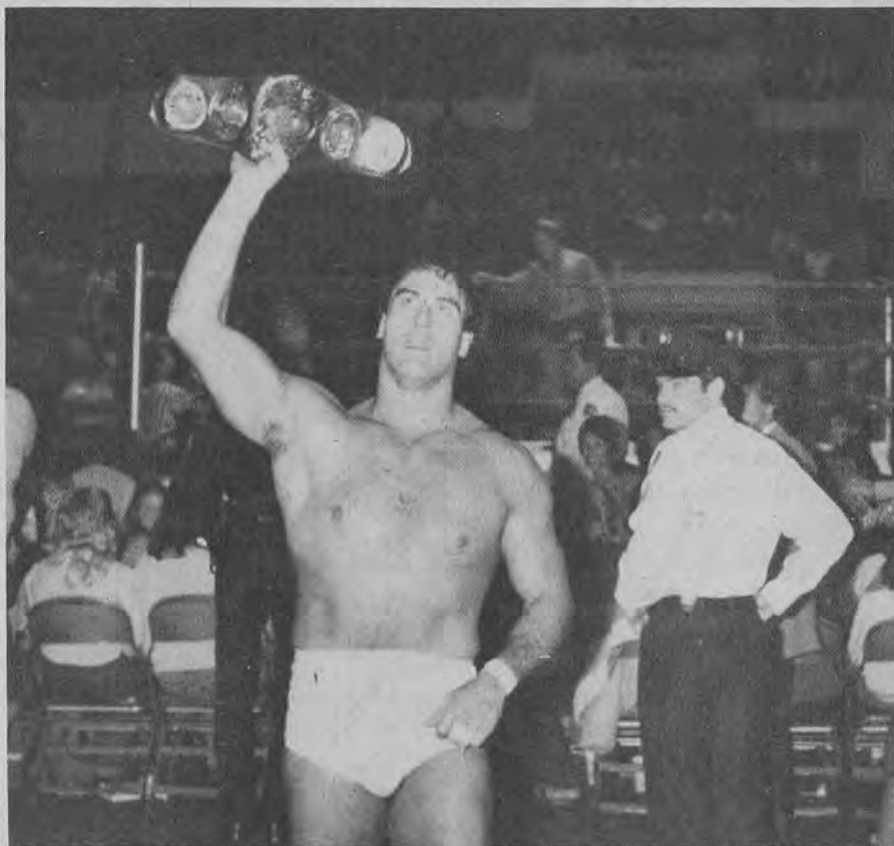
**Every issue, three reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport**

# PRESS CONFERENCE

MIKE ROTONDO

Be sure to watch for "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Press Conference," a semi-regular feature of *Championship Wrestling From Florida* and *World Championship Wrestling from Georgia* on your favorite television stations.

(Though having wrestled professionally only three years, Mike Rotondo has demonstrated to the world the true meaning of the word veteran. After losing the Southern heavyweight title back to Cowboy Ron Bass, Rotondo did not slip into depression. He entered and won a one-night tournament in St. Petersburg to decide a new Florida State champion. In the tournament final, Rotondo defeated former U.S. champion Greg Valentine with an airplane spin to take the title vacated by Barry Windham a month earlier. Rotondo is one of only a few wrestlers who has held the both the Florida State and Southern titles. He has endeared himself to the Florida fans and has established himself as a major challenger to Ric Flair's NWA World title. Senior Editor Bill Apter and Associate Editor Craig Peters met with Rotondo at Tampa's Sportatorium. They discussed the challengers for his new title, his ongoing feud with



Bass and manager J.J. Dillon, and a possible opportunity to compete for the NWA World championship.)

Rotondo holds aloft his newly won Florida belt. Mike is interviewed by Craig Peters and Bill Apter (opposite top).





**"I don't have a world championship. That's my goal. I guess that's everyone's goal. But that's the only thing I don't have right now that I want."**

**CRAIG PETERS:** First, we should congratulate you on winning the Florida State title tournament.

**MIKE ROTONDO:** Well, thank you, Craig. It was a hard series of matches, but I was in good shape and I wanted to win.

**BILL APTER:** You beat Greg Valentine in the final round. Valentine is a former U.S. champion. He's also given NWA World champion Ric Flair some of his toughest matches. Does this give you confidence that you can give Flair a serious title challenge?

**MR:** It's definitely something to think about, but nothing to depend upon. You have to depend upon your abilities. Your physical condition and your mental and physical preparedness before a match gives you confidence.

**BA:** Mike, your career seems to be going very well right now. You've developed a terrific arsenal of moves and maneuvers. Your dropkick is excellent and you've got a great finishing move, the airplane spin. You've



Rotondo applies an armbar against Ron Bass, the man from whom he won his first major championship, the Southern title, last September.

got one of the most prestigious state championships around. What don't you have?

**MR:** I don't have a world championship. That's my goal. Well, that's not a very unique answer. I guess that's everyone's goal. But

that's the only thing I don't have right now that I want.

**CP:** Are you ready for Ric Flair?

**MR:** I'm ready to sign the contract, yes. I've been watching him and I think I know what it's going to take to beat him. Of course, before the match, I would take about a week off and really get ready for him. I'd get into the gym for what I call fine tuning. I'd work on some things specifically designed to take advantage of Flair's weaknesses—and he does have some, just like everybody else.

**BA:** Is there something you know about Flair that will make you the next NWA champ?

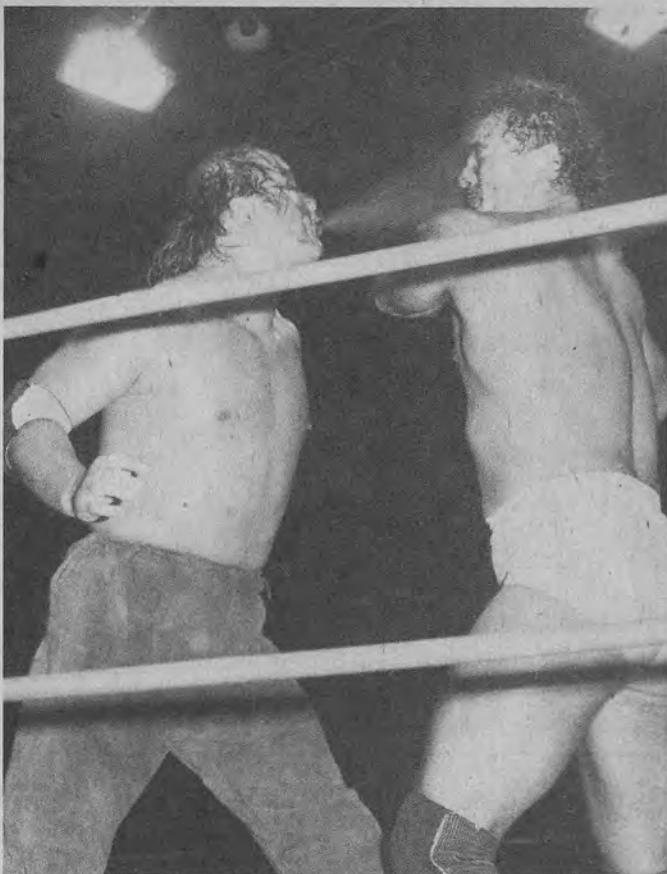
**MR:** Does he subscribe to this magazine?

**BA:** Yes.

**MR:** Then there's nothing. Absolutely nothing.

**CP:** Okay, I think I understand that response. You seem to rely a great deal on the airplane spin. Do you think you depend on it too much?

**MR:** That would be like saying that



I depend too much on pressing my opponent's shoulders to the mat to get a pin. It's part of my pinning combination. Why not depend on something that works every time? I don't see it as much of a gamble.

CP: It must have been difficult to perfect the spin. Did you have trouble finding sparring partners willing to be subjected to the maneuver?

MR: I had to use people who really trusted me. A victim of an airplane spin is in a pretty precarious situation, after all. I ended up working with two of my friends from college and one of my cousins. That was before I turned pro. Now my practice comes on the job, so to speak. You might think that mine is the perfect airplane spin, but it gets better every time I do it. The faster the revolution, the more effective the spin. Everyone learns from experience.

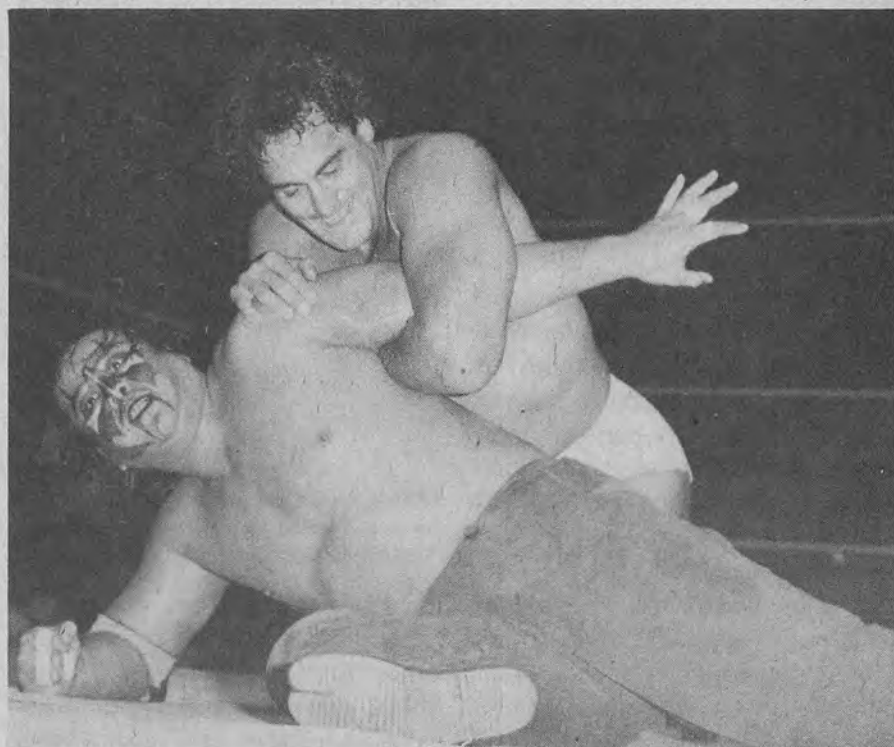
BA: You recently had the experience of winning your first major title, the Southern title from Ron Bass last September, but then you lost the title back to Bass in November. Did you learn any-

Rotondo, who is smart enough to learn from his mistakes, will probably never be in a position to have to absorb Kendo Nagasaki's green fog again (above left). Mike demonstrates for the 402-pound One Man Gang one of the finest airplane spins in professional wrestling (above right).

thing from that?

MR: Actually ... well, I don't want to sound like I'm bragging or anything, but, uh, I think I handled

that pretty well. I beat Bass, then I lost to Bass. But it wasn't the end of my life. I told myself afterward that I would have many more



Note the concentration on Rotondo's face as he makes sure that his armlock is applied to its ultimate effectiveness.



years to be champion. The next championship just came quicker than most people expected.

CP: One of the challengers for your title is Kendo Nagasaki, who, with One Man Gang, is being advised by ...

MR: ... managed by J.J. Dillon.

CP: That's not official.

MR: It doesn't have to be. One Man Gang and Nagasaki are signing to wrestle me on orders from Dillon.

BA: But Dillon's name is not on the contracts, and he isn't getting a cut of the purses. Can you explain that?

MR: Sure. Dillon's a lousy businessman. All I know is that these two men are being instructed by J.J. Dillon to hurt me, and if that's not managing, then I don't know what is.

CP: What do you think Dillon's trying to do?

MR: He has his two men running interference for Bass. Obviously, Dillon doesn't want me near Bass again, and to tell you the truth, I don't blame him.

BA: You're defending the Florida title while you chase Ron Bass, and you're looking for a shot at the NWA World championship. Don't you think you're trying to take on just a bit too much?

MR: I'm just keeping busy.

CP: What happens when all the dreams come true. What will Mike Rotondo do when he has his awards, his beautiful home, his fleet of imported cars, his sterling reputation intact, and the NWA championship belt?

MR: I'll dream more dreams, different dreams. You always have to have something to strive for. You have to have a goal. If I ever do everything I want to in wrestling, I think I'll start all over again in another career. I don't think I'd ever find anything as exciting as professional wrestling, but I could be happy just setting a goal for myself and obtaining it. Success makes me happy. ☐



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# WFOCUS

## THE PWI T-SHIRT CONTEST

And the mail keeps rolling in. Two months ago, I asked you to identify the wrestler standing next to Billy the Kid in a 1974 photo. Although there were some wrong answers (including guesses ranging from Dusty Rhodes to Bobby Colt to Buddy Roberts), many readers correctly guessed that the man pictured was Jim Garvin.

Aileen Banaszak of Bay City, Michigan, had the correct answer and was lucky enough to have her name randomly selected as the winner of a free



**Graham, Graham, & ??????**

*Pro Wrestling Illustrated* T-shirt.  
This month's photo dates

back to 1966. The man on the right is Eddie Graham, and he's offering instruction to the two youngsters on the mat. The youngster on top is Eddie's son, Mike. To win a free T-shirt, you've got to identify the other young wrestler.

Hint: His name appears in this month's "Official Wrestling Ratings."

Send your responses, along with your T-shirt size (small, medium, large, or extra-large), to In Focus/PWI, Box 48, Rockville Centre, New York 11571.

## DUSTY'S HOEDOWN

The "American Dream" himself, Dusty Rhodes, went on stage in Orlando, Florida, recently at the Eddie Graham Sports Complex during a special evening of country and western music.

Joining Dusty on stage were Blackjack Mulligan and Mike Davis. The headliner of the evening was the internationally famous Boxcar Willie.

"You should have seen Dusty up there," Mulligan said later. "He was like a kid in a candy store. Hell, give him a microphone and he'll sing, tell jokes, you name it. He really knows how to please a crowd!"

"You'd think he's been singing country for years," Davis pointed out. "As soon as he got that mike in his hand, he took command of the stage. He was

a real crowd-pleaser!"

Dusty says, however, he has no plans to quit wrestling and sing country and western full-time!



**Dusty Rhodes with Boxcar Willie & the band**



## ACHIEVEMENT '83: THE WINNERS ARE HONORED

In the weeks since the March 1984 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* hit the newsstands, Bill Apter and I have been on the road presenting plaques to some of the winners of the annual fan poll.

On one trip to Atlanta, we presented a plaque to Brett Sawyer for being named 1983's Most Improved Wrestler of the Year by the readers of this magazine. In his acceptance speech, Brett thanked his brother and the fans for helping him to improve over the course of the year. Precious Paul Ellering accepted two plaques on behalf of Hawk and Animal, The Road Warriors, voted 1983's Tag Team of the Year.

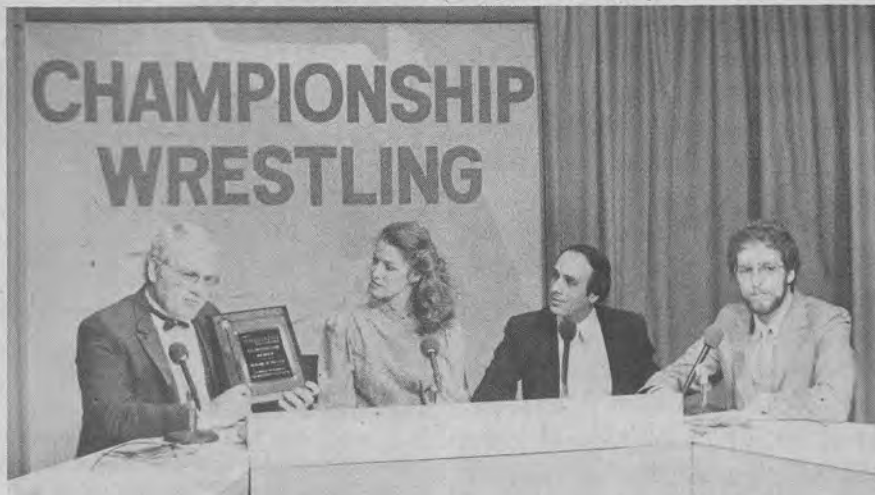
In accepting 1983's Manager of the Year honors in Florida, J.J. Dillon pointed out that it was only the second time ever that a manager had captured that accolade twice in a row. (The other was Arnold Skoaland, Manager of the Year for 1978 and 1979.) Dillon brashly predicted that he would be the winner again in 1984.

*Pro Wrestling Illustrated* photographer Scott Romer stepped into the ring in the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis to present Harley Race with a plaque as 1983's Wrestler of the Year. Romer cited Race's excellence in competition throughout 1983 and his unprecedented achievement of capturing a seventh NWA World heavyweight title.

Plaques were sent by mail to several other winners: Jimmy Snuka—Most Popular Wrestler of the Year, Greg Valentine—Most Hated Wrestler of the Year, Hulk Hogan—Inspirational Wrestler of the Year, and Angelo Mosca Jr.—Rookie of the Year.



**Craig Peters, Brett Sawyer, & Bill Apter**



**J.J. Dillon, Barbara Clary, Apter, & Peters**



**Scott Romer & Harley Race**

## A Study In Contrasts

# RIC FLAIR—CHALLENGER

*Photos by Brad McFarlin and Scott Romer*

**A**S HE WATCHED the videotape of his match against Mike Graham, Ric Flair smiled. When it came to his match against Mr. Wrestling II, the man grew serious. He watched the second match intently, trying to see what could be improved and what dangers could be seen.

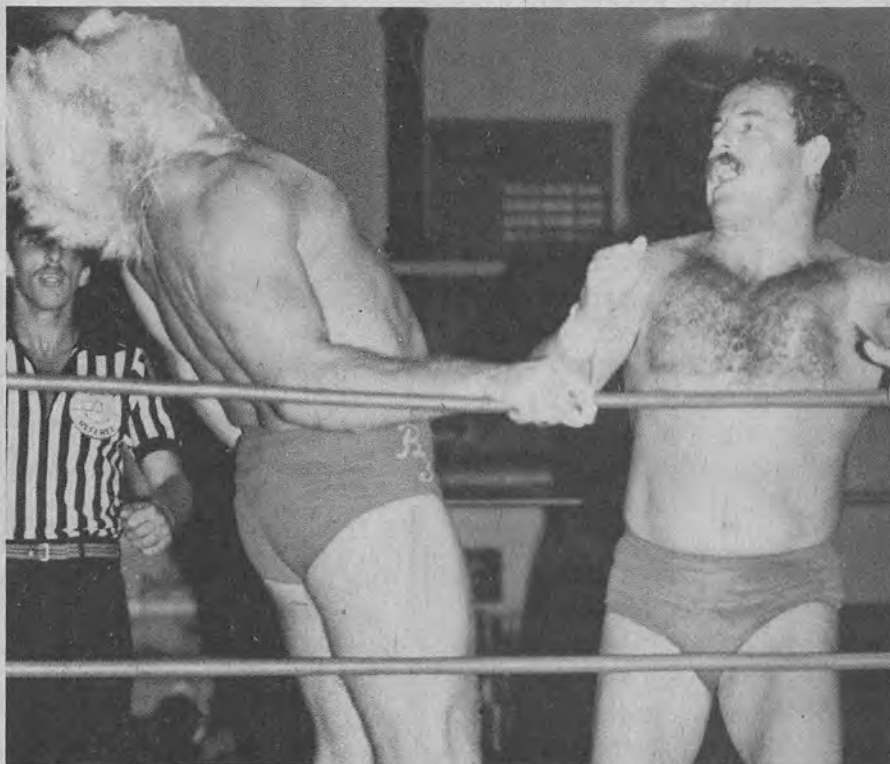
The difference in the matches was not whom Flair wrestled but when he wrestled them. He battled Graham before he regained his NWA title. His match against Mr. Wrestling II was a defense of that title. There is nothing Flair takes more seriously than a title defense.

Yet, when Flair discussed his match against Graham, there was an excitement in his voice that said he missed that type of freewheeling combat.

"See," he pointed out in the Graham match, "that's where I went wild. Now that's what I call reckless! Was I lucky to come out that one alive! I'd say six out of 10 times, Graham would have ended the match right there, put my shoulders to the mat. Didn't this time. Mrs. Flair's little boy sure got lucky that night.

"Wow! Did you see that? He had me pinned there. Another half a second and it'd be all over. Know why that happened? I was trying a new maneuver, one I call the 'savage smash.' You see, I twist my body around and if it works, both my forearm and thigh smash into the guy's body. He gets it from two heights and there's no place for him to go but down. As you can see, when I twisted, I missed. Graham got me down and almost had me. I was lucky to bridge out of it.

"The savage smash is a good idea, but I wouldn't want to use it in a title



Flair's head snaps back as the result of a right hand thrown by Mike Graham (above). Ric wrestles without caution when he doesn't have a title to protect and he expects to take some punishment, but he also knows he will be handing out at least an equal amount of punishment (below).





*As Shakespeare once said, "A man arrived is not the same man arriving." Ric Flair, champion, is not the same wrestler as Ric Flair, challenger. The difference tells us much about the man and much about the complex sport of professional wrestling*

# VS. RIC FLAIR—CHAMPION

match. Too risky. If it works, you're a winner. But I don't think there's a wrestler today who could make it work more than 30 percent of the time. When you're champion, you can't take low percentage chances."

Then Flair watched his match against Mr. Wrestling II. The reckless and imaginative athlete seen in the Graham match was nowhere evident. Controlled, ruthless, and serious, Flair clinically battled his foe. It wasn't pretty and it will never go down as one of Flair's great matches. That didn't mean anything. All that mattered was Flair won and retained his NWA title.

It would be more accurate to say Flair fooled his opponent into losing. The battle spilled outside the ring. Flair bashed Mr. Wrestling II in the back, sending the man sprawling to

*(Continued on page 56)*



Champion Flair absorbs a Mr. Wrestling II left to the head (above) and is hurled to the canvas (left). But, wrestling conservatively, Ric knows he will eventually assume the upper hand (below).





## Jimmy Hart's Plan To Destroy The Fabulous Ones:

# “I’LL MAKE KEIRN AND LANE HATE EACH OTHER AGAIN!”

*Photos by Scott Romer and Sam Lowe*

**T**HEY DON'T TALK about the past. All that matters to Steve Keirn and Stan Lane is the future, a future in which they'll be the best tag team the world has ever known. Instinctively, they fear the only thing that can stop them is if either one remembers.

To be a tag team, there was much each man had to willfully forget. Several years ago, Keirn and Lane were bitter enemies. Keirn especially has much he can't afford to remember. Lane was a brutally effective rule-breaker, and Keirn suffered at his hands. Steve can remember many nights he painfully turned in his bed, trying to find a position where his body didn't suffer shooting pains.

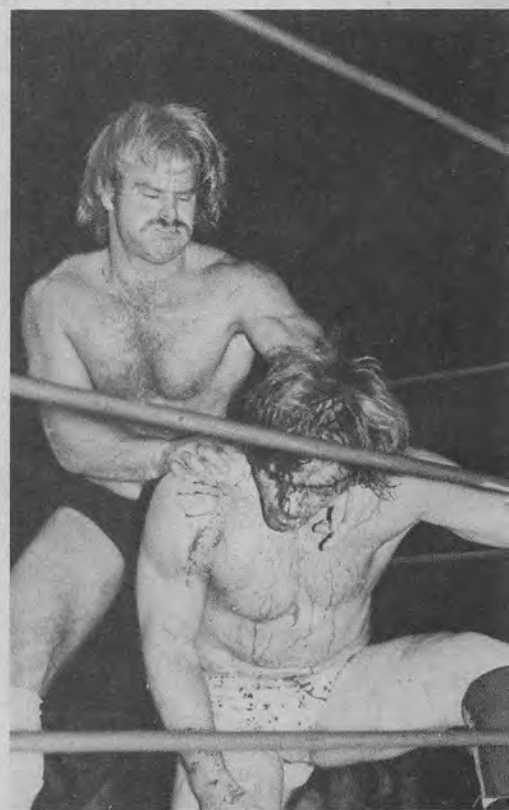
Keirn won't talk about specifics, but he will explain in general how he managed to forgive and

forget.

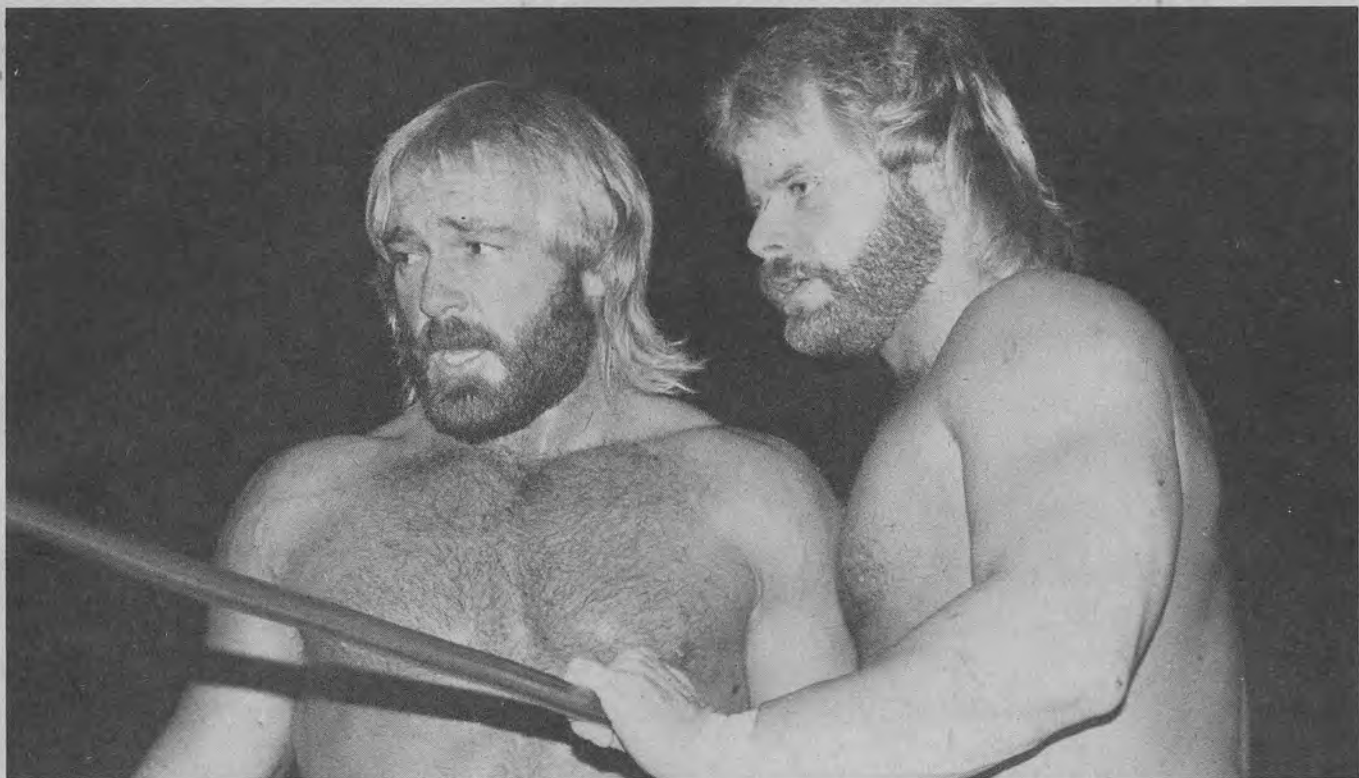
"In this business," Keirn says, "you can't survive if you hold grudges. We all change and those changes have to be accepted. Once a match is over, the rage has to be forgotten. I've seen too many guys destroy their careers by getting caught up in feuds. I want to be champion. I don't want to get sidetracked. So if someone comes along who's a perfect tag team partner, and there's every reason to trust him now, only an idiot would dwell on the past and ruin the future."

Manager Jimmy Hart is intent on ruining The Fabulous Ones' future. His best weapon to accomplish this, he claims, is the past.

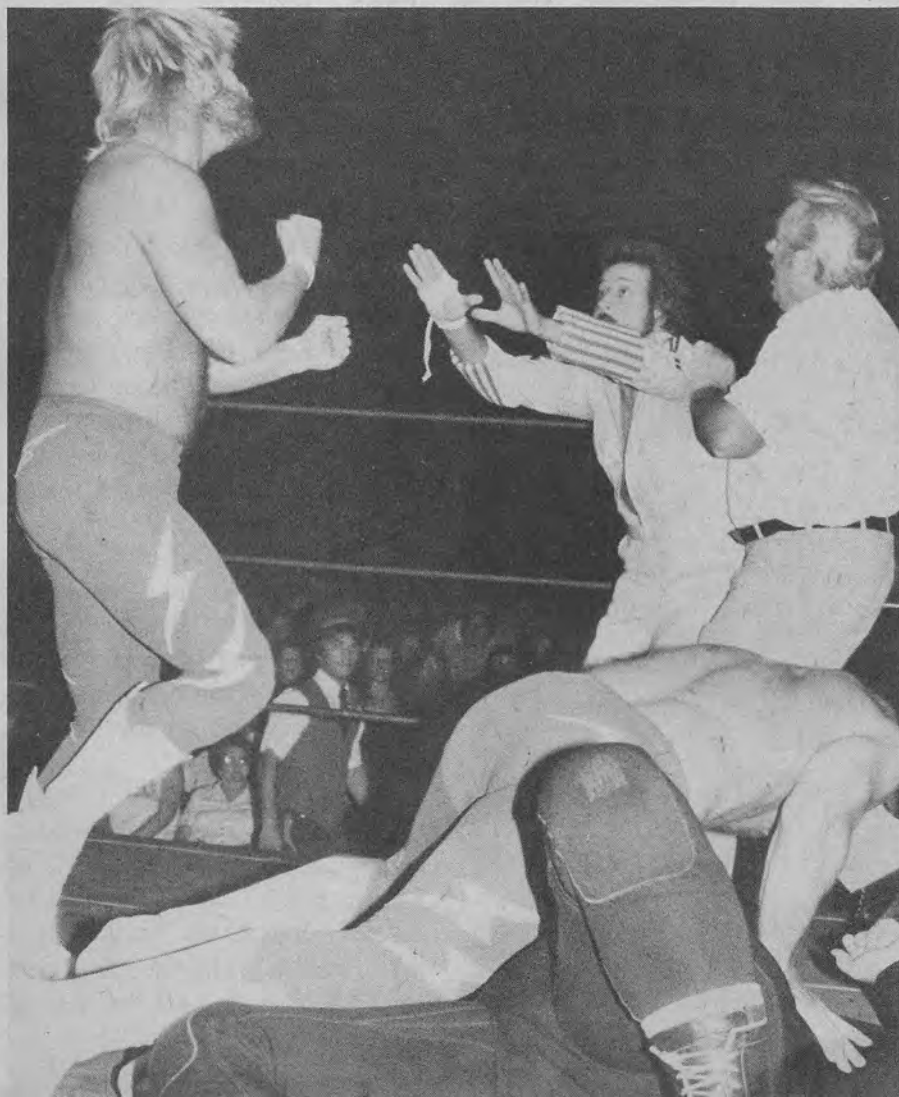
"I don't mind telling you how I'll do this," he brags, "because the plan is foolproof. I've been







It's up to Steve Keirn and Stan Lane (above) to figure out a way to counter the plan that Jimmy Hart (opposite page top) has concocted to make them hate each other as they did in 1981 (opposite page bottom). Lane scares Hart out of interfering against Keirn's pin attempt on an Assassin (below).




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***Years ago, Steve Keirn and Stan Lane were the bitterest of enemies. Today, they're The Fabulous Ones, a successful and adored tag team. They believe their partnership is solid. One man intends to prove them wrong—brutally and painfully wrong!***

---

studying films of Lane when he was Keirn's enemy. They're very interesting. It seems Lane—shall we say instinctively—bends the rules when confronted with certain moves. You can see he can't help himself, it's a natural reaction. If he's forced to battle a series of such moves, he'll revert to being one of the most dangerous 'rulebreakers' in wrestling. Now how will Steve Keirn feel about his partner being one of the

*(Continued on page 62)*

# HULK HOGAN



## CAN THE FANS



1980-1981: Having first knocked Dick Kroll unconscious, Hogan then tries to explain to the referee that his foot was on the ropes when his shoulders were counted to the mat (left). Even Gorilla Monsoon cannot handle the Hulk (above).

## EVER FORGIVE HIS PAST TREACHERY?

**"I** WILL CONTROL wrestling in the '80s! There is no one in this crummy federation who can handle me. I am the strongest, the toughest, the smartest there ever was!"

When Hulk Hogan's boast was printed in the May 1980 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, he was a top contender for then-WWF champion Bob Backlund's title. He was ranked in the "Most Hated" ratings. And he was being managed by Fred Blassie.

"Anything that makes Hulk happy makes me happy," Blassie said at the time. "But let me tell you the thing that makes him real happy..."

"The sound of screams from my foe," Hogan said in reply to his manager. "Oh, I love to hear them scream with pain. Really pumps me up and motivates me."



Blassie's influence clearly had a profound effect on Hogan's attitude back in 1980. Blassie, generally the manager of maniacal, vicious wrestlers like Killer Khan and George "The Animal" Steele, began to cultivate those qualities in Hogan.

And Hogan began to grow more and more vicious with each match he wrestled.

And the fans began to grow more and more fearful of what Hogan might do to champion Bob Backlund... and of what Hogan might become if he completed the course Blassie had set for him.

\*\*\*

In the years since those turbulent months as top WWF contender, Hogan has gone through a lot of changes. But his career has brought him full circle: He's back in the WWF, and fans in the Northeast are beginning to ask a lot of



questions:

● *Has Hogan really changed his ways since his last appearance in the WWF?*

Many WWF fans have read accounts of Hogan's matches in the AWA area, but that's a different area of the country against a different class of competitor.

● *Will Hogan's frustrations from the AWA carry over into the WWF and make him more violent than before?*

In the AWA area, Hogan repeatedly tried to capture the AWA World title from Nick Bockwinkel. He was repeatedly denied. One instance of failure caused him to leave the country in embarrassment. Will Hogan take out his frustrations on WWF fan favorites?

● *What kind of an effect will Blassie have on Hogan?*



*Hulk Hogan may be one of the most popular and loved competitors in professional wrestling, but there's a dark shadow that threatens to eclipse his glorious reputation. As Hogan returns to the WWF area, memories of his former association with Fred Blassie raise a lot of important questions*

Old kinships die hard, and Hogan and Blassie had one of the closest manager-wrestler relationships the WWF has ever seen. While Hogan may be returning to the WWF alone, will constant exposure to Blassie rekindle the friendship that led to their successful business association in 1980?

● *Does Hogan deserve to be forgiven for atrocities committed during his previous stay in the WWF?*

For many fans, the wounds are still fresh. The brutal matches against area favorites. The callous way in which he wrestled, striving to seriously injure an opponent before pinning his shoulders to the mat. The hated association with Blassie. The direct insults to the fans. Events may fade into the past, but memories last forever. Some



After earning the fans' wrath in displays of brutality against such men as Bob Backlund (above), Hogan found out how valuable the fans' encouragement can be against such men as Ken Patera (top).



The powerful Hogan grabs Patera by the hand and head and prepares to fling him through the ropes to the arena floor.

fans are still unwilling to accept Hogan as a fan favorite, much less a potential champion in the WWF.

\*\*\*

The opinions of fans who have reached our offices through "Wrestling Central" are varied:

"I wouldn't be surprised, now that The Iron Sheik is WWF champion, if Hogan is first in line for a title shot."

"Hogan won't wrestle The Iron Sheik. Blassie is Sheik's manager, and used to be Hogan's manager. Hogan wouldn't take away from Blassie the one thing he's worked so hard to achieve: the WWF title."

"Hogan hasn't changed at all. He's as vicious, sadistic, and glory-hungry as ever. He'll go after any brass ring that the WWF has to offer."

"Watch out for Hogan. He's as sneaky as hell. He may come in a fan favorite, but he'll be back together with Blassie before anyone realizes what's happened."

"Blassie ruined Hogan. He destroyed his chances for the WWF title years ago. Hulk wants revenge."

So many people and so many opinions. But there's one underlying factor in everyone's minds: the attitude that Hulk Hogan displayed during his last stint in the WWF.

As Hogan tries to gain respect in 1984, he's going to find that he has to overcome the mistakes of 1980.

The fans have not forgotten those mistakes. And Hogan knows that. He knows that the fans remember the Hulk Hogan of 1980. And if the fans choose not to forgive the Hulk Hogan of 1980, the Hulk Hogan of 1984 could be more brutal and vicious than ever. □



Hogan would depend on the cheers of the fans to help him come back from the double-team effort of David Shultz and Mr. Saito.



# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

TV SPORTS

## CLOSE-UP

### BUTCH REED

#### THE CAREER OF "Hacksaw"

Butch Reed took an unexpected turn in the past year, but his change from fan favorite to rulebreaker also resulted in the greatest successes of his career . . . Was active in sports starting with Little League baseball and Midget football teams in home town of Kansas City, Missouri . . . Actually had two high school football teams in Kansas City secretly vying for his enrollment . . . "I was the only 15-year-old in town with scouts following him around," he said . . . Achieved statewide notoriety playing linebacker on defense and tight end on offense . . . "I liked defense more. I liked hitting, not getting hit," he said . . . Watched all sports on television, his favorite being pro wrestling . . . Surprisingly never wrestled as an amateur . . . "It was too tame for me. I tried it once in gym class in junior high and I got thrown out for dropkicking and bodyslamming my classmates," he said . . . Chose to attend Central Missouri State University over a number of other colleges offering football scholarships . . . "My family needed me at home, and I wanted to be there for them," he said . . . Received all-America honors at linebacker in his senior year . . . Flatly refused the advances of NFL teams after graduation; his goal had always been to become a pro wrestler . . . "Football was fun," he said, "but the only reason I played was so I could go to college for free and get in shape for wrestling" . . . Did not rush to make his professional debut, instead opting to wait for a bout against a top star . . . Convinced promoters to match him with former AWA and NWA World champion Gene Kiniski . . . Reed defeated Kiniski, shocking the fans in Vancouver, Canada . . . "It was the proudest moment of my life," he said . . . On the reputation of defeating a former world champion in his debut appearance, signed for an extensive tour of North America . . . Also wrestled in Germany during his rookie year . . . "I heard they did things a lot differently over there. I thought maybe I could learn something new," he said . . . Returned to the U.S., landing in California and working his way east to Tennessee . . . During this swing through the country, made his first professional appearance in his home town . . . "I was never so nervous in my life," he said . . . Ended up in Florida, where he enjoyed success in singles and tag team competition . . . Teamed successfully with Sweet Brown Sugar, and



feuded with DoryFunk Jr., Terry Funk, and David VonErich . . . Received his first NWA World title shot against Harley Race . . . Won a disputed decision against Race, but Race kept his title on a technicality . . . "I grew up real fast after that," he said. "I found out what kind of power a champion has" . . . Feuded with Big John Studd, and collected a \$10,000 prize for bodyslamming the 364 pounder . . . Moved on to the Georgia area, where he gained immediate acceptance from the fans . . . Battled former WWF champion Ivan Koloff in a series of bloody encounters . . . Challenged NWA World champion Ric Flair on the World Championship Wrestling television broadcast . . . Flair accepted the non-title match, which went to a time-limit draw . . . The proud champion demanded that

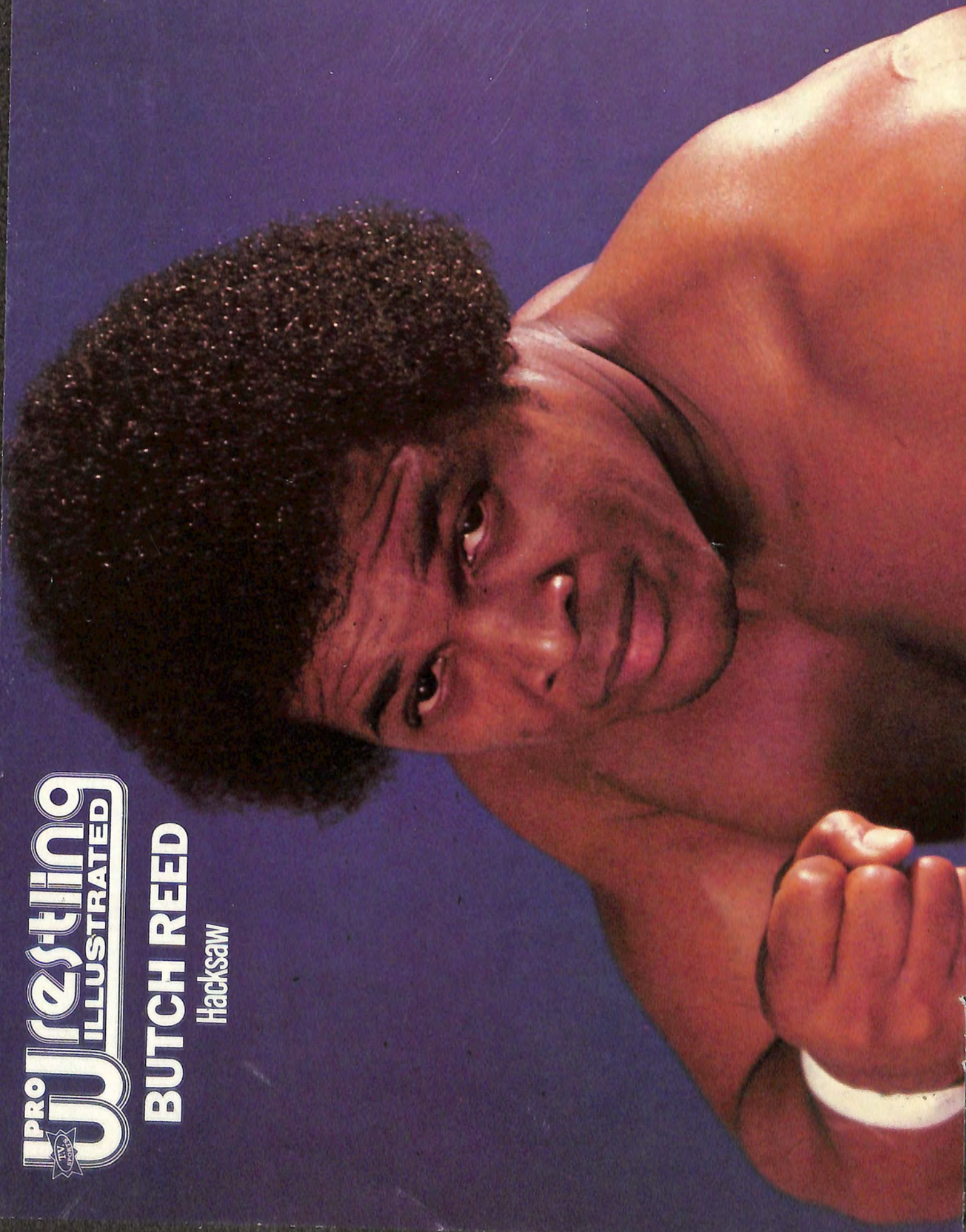
the match be extended . . . Pinned Flair in the overtime period, lifting himself into the number one contenders spot for the NWA belt . . . Flair placed a \$10,000 bounty on Reed's head, hoping that someone would injure Reed before their next encounter . . . Flair and Reed wrestled to a number of no-contest and double-disqualification decisions . . . Signed to appear in the Mid-South region, where he quickly befriended the "King of Mid-South Wrestling," Junkyard Dog . . . Their friendship disintegrated after Hacksaw Duggan won a fan vote to decide who JYD should team with to challenge for the Mid-South tag team belts held by Ted DiBiase and Mr. Olympia . . . Reed told a TV audience that he had felt slighted . . . North American champion JYD slapped Reed in the face in front of the television audience, which sparked the most brutal feud in Mid-South wrestling history . . . The two have battled in everything from Dog Collar Chain Matches to a Yellow Streak Matches, in which the loser gets painted yellow by the winner . . . They continue to trade the North American title, which at press time is held by JYD . . . Also recently held the Mid-South tag team championship with Jim Neidhart, losing the belts to Terry "Magnum T.A." Allen and Mr. Wrestling II . . . Currently works with a bodybuilding coach, a dietician, and a team of doctors to keep himself in top physical condition . . . "My body is a brickhouse," he said, "and I just keep adding the bricks. I want to see JYD try to knock me down. He can huff and puff all he wants, but he's not gonna blow this house in." □



**Pro Wrestling**  
ILLUSTRATED

**BUTCH REED**

Hacksaw







# CLOSE - UP



## TOUGHEST OPPONENT

"The man I've learned the most from in wrestling is Ivan Koloff. Most of what I know is self-taught, but in our matches, Koloff taught me how to win a match, how to take advantage of a situation and make it work for you. When I wrestled Koloff, I was still worrying about what the fans might think of me. He didn't. That's what made him a winner."



## FAVORITE MANEUVER

"The 'press and slam' is the ultimate feeling in the world. When I have my opponent high over my head, I control what will happen to him. I can do whatever I want to him, and he knows it. The fear shows in his eyes. It's my favorite maneuver because not only does it hurt when he comes down, it hurts when he's up there, too."

## GREATEST MATCH

"I had the NWA World championship within my reach. It was right there. But Ric Flair just managed to squeak by. He knew what he was doing, 'cause he had a lot of experience being champion. I know that if we wrestled today that I would beat him. All I need is the chance. Flair better watch out now that he's champ again, 'cause I'll get him."



## MOST HATED OPPONENT

"Imagine Junkyard Dog calling himself the 'King of Wrestling' and keeping a straight face, too. He told the fans that he taught me how to wrestle. Now if the fans believe that, they deserve JYD, and he deserves them. I don't want to have anything to do with that Dog, unless it involves me beating the life out of him."





## *Rich And Sawyer vs. The Road Warriors:*

# HOW THIS MATCH PROVED PAUL ELLERING A GENIUS

*Photos by Floyd See*



***Precious Paul Ellering claims that his mind is the best in professional wrestling today. His claims had been written off by many as the boasts of a power-hungry egotist, but his latest achievement may have proven those boasts accurate***

**T**HE CORNER OFFICE is reserved for the high and the mighty of America's industrial giants, corporations that take their place on the New York Stock Exchange and inhabit the skyscrapers of this country's urban centers.

Paul Ellering has moved into the corner office. His Legion of Doom

Inc. does not yet hold a place on any stock exchange, nor can Ellering honestly call the corporation an industrial giant. He does have his corner office, however, with a two-windowed view of downtown Atlanta.

As impressive as the office is, however, Ellering has trouble look-

ing the part. There is no three-piece suit adorning his body. He wears a silk jumpsuit, an aviator's scarf wraps around his neck, and he wears a pair of what he calls "space goggles." One would doubt that the Chief Executive Officer at the Coca-Cola Company just across town was dressed similarly. Ellering, however,

prides himself on not conforming to anyone's standards.

"Those who succeed in what I have personally deemed the 'Go For It 1980s' do so not by conforming to others' ideas, but by striking out with new ideas and new concepts," Ellering said. "I am my own man. I wear clothes that I feel comfortable in. And my space goggles, which I'm sure will find their way into this story, help me to think in futuristic terms. Fans in Japan gave me these goggles, and we all know that Japan leads the way in the high-technology fields that the U.S. is only beginning to discover."

The Legion of Doom, contrarily, does not deal in a high-technology field. Human combat is the product marketed by Ellering's corporation. As the strategic and financial force behind National tag team champions The Road Warriors, Jake "The



Rich fires his right hand against a charging Warrior Hawk (above). Having knocked Animal to one knee, Sawyer turns his attention to Hawk as a dumbfounded Ellering looks on from ringside (below).



Snake" Roberts, and The Sheik, manager Ellering applies what he calls "hi-tech thought" to the concerns of his wrestlers.

Ellering's latest ploy not only benefited The Road Warriors, but displayed Ellering's claim that "a finely tuned wrestling mind can mean the difference between success and failure." The circumstances surrounding the matchup of Tommy Rich and Buzz Sawyer against the Warriors were masterfully manipulated by Ellering, and provided a showcase for his genius.

Ellering's Road Warriors were scheduled to battle the Sawyer brothers, despite the fact that Brett had a plaster cast covering his right arm that had been broken by the the Warriors in a previous match. "My mind is constantly working," Ellering said. "I knew that even with a plaster cast, even with an *iron* cast on his hand, Brett Sawyer could not cause trouble for my invincible Road Warriors. But I used it as a tool. I made the opposition's advantage my own."

Ellering proceeded to a legal injunction preventing Brett from wrestling with the cast on. "I knew





Road Warrior Hawk repeatedly smashes his boot into Rich's face, opening up wide cuts on his face (above). Tommy tries to regain his strength (right), but eventually a large loss of blood would render him helpless and he would have to be helped back to the dressing room by Sawyer (bottom right).



what would happen," the manager said. "You see, I apply the same intensity to the study of human nature that I do to the study of the financial world. I find a man like Tommy "Wildfire" Rich fascinating. I find all extremes fascinating. In Rich's case, the extreme is stupidity. Even the most passive spectators of life's parade can tell you that Tommy Rich is no candidate for a university fellowship.

"Rich is a helper. He will blindly do anything he can for his friends. Brett Sawyer went to his bleachers and said, 'Tommy, please do me a favor and wrestle with my brother, Buzz, your arch-enemy of many years.' Now, come on! How many people are going to throw themselves into a partnership with the man responsible for most of the pain he has suffered for the last year and a half? I find it heart-rending that Brett and Buzz have professed their brotherly love, but no intelligent man is going to jump into battle with an enemy."

Ellering said he wasn't at all surprised that Buzz agreed to wrestle with Rich. "Ever since his supposed change, I am sure that Buzzy

wakes up every morning with the feeling that the world loves him," Ellering said. "He's sucking down the milk of human kindness by the gallon. If baby brother asked him to fight a dragon he would.

"The real Buzz Sawyer has cynicism coarsening through his veins. A normal Buzz Sawyer wouldn't think about wrestling with Tommy Rich. All this kindness and compassion—it's like the entire Walton family put on a pair of wrestling trunks."

Sawyer and Rich fought at an extreme disadvantage because of their show of good faith. Not only did each have to defend against the maniacal actions of The Road Warriors, but, due primarily to the thoughts Ellering had planted in their minds, they felt a need to watch each other. "I knew that they would be suspicious of each other," the manager said. "Suspiciousness comes from emotion, not intelligence. These two men are long on emotion, and very, very short on intelligence."

The newly formed team fought their hardest. Their performance, however, appeared stifled by their basic mutual distrust. "Yes indeed,"



Ellering said, "it's difficult to wrestle when one eye is always on your own corner."

At the end of the match, Sawyer assisted a bloodied Rich back to the dressing room. The fledgling team, more used to fights against than with each other, barely survived the horrific beating that the Warriors had served them.

In a vain effort to retain some dignity, Sawyer grabbed one of the National tag team belts from the timekeeper's table and waved it over his head as he and Rich struggled back up the aisle to the dressing room. Ellering watched from ringside, and his face lit up with a smile. He was satisfied with The Road Warriors' victory, but even more satisfied with himself. □

# ★★★★★WRESTLING★★★★★ ★★★★★ENQUILERA★★★★★

## SAWYER BROTHERS CAPTURE NATIONAL BELTS FROM WARRIORS

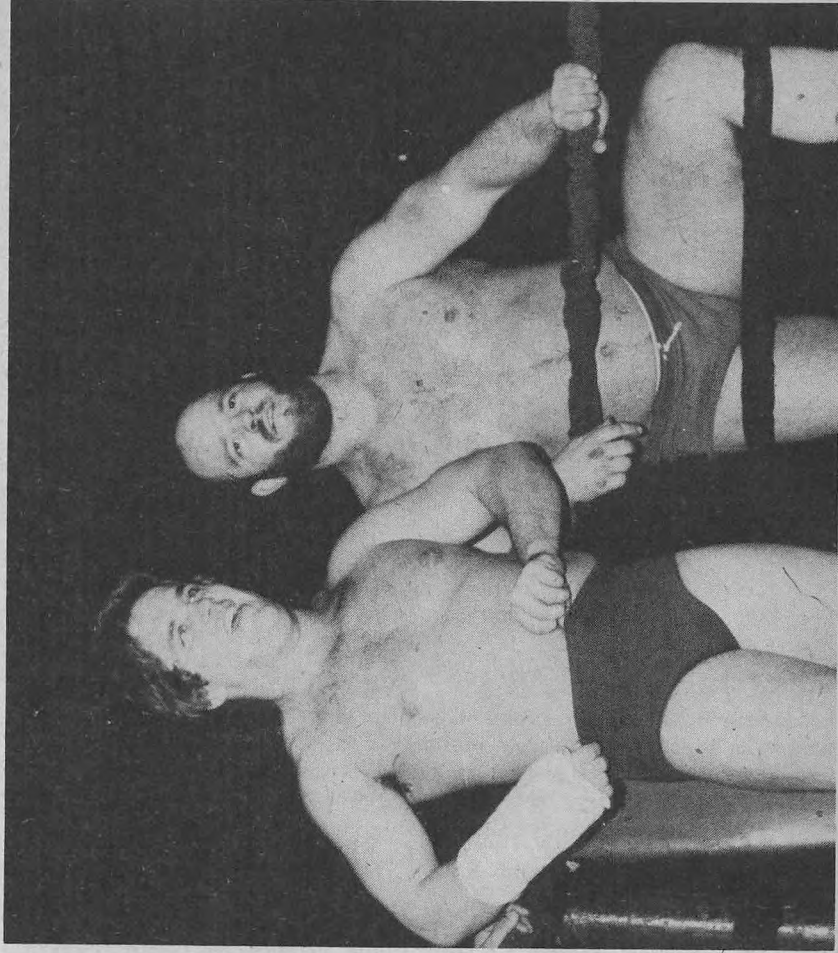
BY JOSEPH BUA

CANTON, OH—The sensational brother tag team combination of Buzz Sawyer and Brett Sawyer defeated The Road Warriors here on December 27 to capture the National tag team heavyweight championship.

"This is the happiest day in my life," Brett Sawyer said following the victory. "I've wanted this for a long time. Ever since the Warriors injured my leg and broke my arm, I've wanted revenge. The fact that it was my brother who helped me

get that revenge makes it all the more sweet!"

"The Sawyer brothers may have the National belts around their waists right now, but that is a situation that will not remain status quo for very long, I promise you that," vowed Precious Paul Ellering, manager of The Road Warriors. "This is simply a temporary setback. The belts will be back among The Legion of Doom before long. And The Sawyers will feel the wrath of Precious Paul!"



Brett and Buzz Sawyer have scored what many people consider to be a major upset by defeating The Road Warriors for the National title.



# Hart Courting Ladd For Mosca Bout

BY STU SAKS

CHARLOTTE, NC—Manager Gary Hart is deep into negotiations that, if successful, will bring former Americas' champion and pro football star Ernie Ladd to the Mid-Atlantic region to battle Hart's rival, Angelo Mosca.



Ernie Ladd might soon be in the stable of the hated Gary Hart.

"Ernie Ladd is the man for this job," Hart said. "He's big and tough, and he throws himself into action like a pig into mud. I have a lot of confidence in him. He's my man."

Mosca, who Hart feels was responsible for the disappearance of his wrestlers Kevin Sullivan and Mark Lewin from the area, has already unsuccessfully matched Ivan Koloff, Don Kernodle, and Kabuki against the former Canadian champion.

# Krusher Darsow And Nikolai Volkoff Form Tag Team

BY BILL APTER

SHREVEPORT, LA—Following a shocking turn of events during televised Mid-South wrestling, Krusher Darsow and Nikolai Volkoff have formed a tag team.

Darsow accepted a gift of a Russian flag from Volkoff and professed his allegiance to the Soviet wrestler, surprising the fans in attendance, television announcer Jim Ross, and Darsow's former partner Junkyard Dog.

The rookie proceeded to de-

nounce the U.S. and JYD. Listening from the dressing room, JYD ran into the ring to argue with Darsow. Volkoff then attacked JYD from behind. Darsow hesitated at first, and then joined Volkoff in beating the popular star in the center of the ring until Hacksaw Duggan and Terry "Magnum T.A." Allen chased them away.

JYD is now seeking a new partner to help him battle Volkoff and Darsow.

# Backlund's Future Uncertain After WWF Loss

BY STEVE MEDWID

PHILADELPHIA—Bob Backlund said that he has not yet decided which avenue his career will take, having completed a five-year, 10-month reign as WWF champion.

Backlund is pondering a number of offers that could either put him into contention for the WWF tag team title or send him out of the Northeast. He is currently working with a physical therapist in Philadelphia to heal injuries he suffered before his title loss to The Iron Sheik on December 26 in New York's Madison Square Garden.

"I haven't had any kind of deci-



Bob Backlund and Arnold Skaaland have some major decisions to make.

sion to make about my career for a long time," Backlund said. "This is new. First, of course, I want a rematch with the Sheik, once I'm completely healed. If I can't regain the title, however, life will go on. I'm a wrestler. I'll always wrestle."

# AROUND THE GLOBE

## HOUSTON, TX

Having come so close to winning the NWA World title so many times in his career, Mr. Wrestling II will soon try something different. The great masked star will be getting a match against AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel. Although II is not rated in the AWA's top 10, officials here feel he has earned the match.

## KANSAS CITY, MO

Sheik Abdullah is having a big problem. His tag team, consisting of two characters called 666 and M.E.B., have been fighting between themselves. So Abdullah's hopes of the two upsetting Bulldog Brown and Avalanche Tyler for the Central States title may have ended right here.

## MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Former wrestler Jerry Jarrett has been appointed the first president of the Southern Promoters Association. The association has been formed for the express purpose of standardizing rules and regulations throughout the Southern states. "This is the first step toward a universal standardization of the rules of this sport," Jarrett said.

# Matt Brock:

# LOOKING AT...



**T**HERE AREN'T MANY of us left. It's not that great a loss; we weren't heroes. Most people aren't in any time. When you believe that, you know you're old.

The people I'm talking about are the people who came to wrestling in the '50s. Television made the grapplers overnight sensations, wrestling magazines hired fresh new kids with dreams of being the next Ring Lardner, and it looked like those involved would begin the greatest era in wrestling history. Yeah, we thought we could redefine a sport that had been popular since ancient Greece. You thought like that in those days, because you didn't know any better.

As time went on, our ideals grew fat and lazy. It was easy to compromise ideals when the money made selling out attractive. Most people managed to keep their self-contempt in check. Others didn't, and assumed you could kill it by drowning it in alcohol. It took me years to know self-contempt is amphibious; it can survive any conditions. That's why there are so few of us left. We either didn't survive the times or don't deserve to still be around. If





# MAD DOG VACHON



Vachon has always utilized a brutal wrestling style (against Lord Al Hays, above, and Ken Patera, opposite page), but his integrity could never be held in question.

you don't deserve to survive in wrestling, you don't.

Through it all, one man managed to keep his integrity and idealism intact. He also managed to be my friend when I needed a friend most. That man is Mad Dog Vachon.

For many years, people found it

difficult to consider him a hero. That's when he picked up the name Mad Dog. He would break rules with a cruel ease that was terrifying. You couldn't excuse his methods, but you could understand. He was rebelling against the times.

In those days, there were too many self-styled heroes, the kind of plastic saints who talked a good game but crumbled in the clinches. Wrestling, like the rest of the country, threatened to choke on its own self-righteousness. Mad Dog decided to cut through the slop and force people to confront the reality. He didn't do it for people, it was something he had to do for himself. We were all made to see a little clearer because of it, though.

Then he didn't need to do it anymore. He discovered people no longer had to hear what he was saying. Instead, the sport was filling with men who no longer disguised their greed by pretending to get rich for the fans. Mad Dog looked around and didn't like the people who considered him a pioneer. So he changed, and a little bit of wrestling changed with him.

He's now a fan favorite, and no man in wrestling more deserves the crowd's cheers. Selflessly, he

confronts the thugs and bullies, men determined to crush the sport's dignity. He doesn't expect to be rewarded for it. Titles and honors were never really important to him, even when he reigned as AWA champion. He does it because that's what he must do. He couldn't live any other way.

What's remarkable is that his ability remains so great. What he's lost physically is far less than what he's gained from experience. His gift is that he's smart enough never to forget a mistake. I don't think I've seen him make a mental error in 20 years.

Yeah, he's a hero. He's not the type of guy who brags about his righteousness, nor does he do what he knows the fans want. He's a hero because he's been his own man when that was just about the hardest thing anyone could do. He's still his own man, and I guess it's still the hardest thing to do.

It's been a long time between causes, but if I ever again found something worth dying for, Mad Dog Vachon would be the man I'd ask to come with me. And if he said no, I'd seriously question the cause. I couldn't doubt his integrity. That's a fact, like gravity. □

# ARENA REPORT



**John Studd**

**RIDGEWOOD GROVES ARENA** (Queens, NY): Big John Studd was disqualified in his match against Tito Santana ... Rocky Johnson, Tony Atlas, & S.D. Jones defeated Afa, Sika, & Samala Samoan ... Iron Sheik beat Chief Jay Strongbow ... The Invaders defeated Butcher Vachon & Steve Lombardi ... Tonga Kid drew with Tony Colon.



**Tito Santana**



**Tony Atlas**

**CIVIC CENTER** (Baltimore): Tony Atlas & Rocky Johnson shared the top prize in an \$15,000 Battle Royal ... Atlas, after winning a coin flip with Johnson, drew with Bob Backlund ... Johnson defeated Ivan Koloff ... Iron Sheik beat Tonga Kid ... Iron Mike Sharpe defeated Butcher Vachon ... Samala Samoan defeated Charlie Fulton.



**Rocky Johnson**

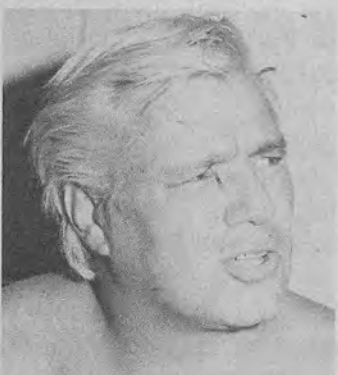


**Tony Garea**

**WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL** (West Orange, NJ): Sgt. Slaughter was counted out in his match with Tony Atlas ... Tony Garea drew with Mr. Fuji ... Tito Santana defeated Ivan Koloff ... Eddie Gilbert defeated Charlie Fulton.

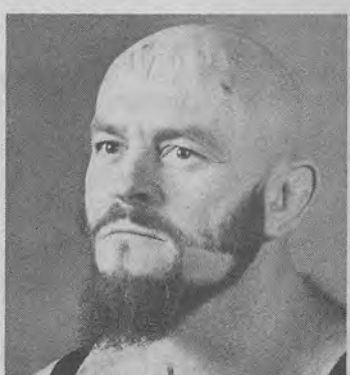


**Mr. Fuji**



**Pat Patterson**

**THE SPECTRUM** (Philadelphia): Bob Backlund defeated Iron Sheik ... Pat Patterson beat Ivan Koloff ... Superfly Snuka & Arnold Skoaland defeated Magnificent Muraco & Capt. Lou Albano ... Tony Atlas drew with Sgt. Slaughter ... Tito Santana defeated Big John Studd by disqualification ... The Invaders beat Iron Mike Sharpe & Mr. Fuji.



**Ivan Koloff**



This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost . . . and how. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will print eyewitness reports from correspondents who attend the matches. If you'd like to have your correspondent report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, send it to:  
**Arena Report; PWI; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571**



**Masked Superstar**

**CAPITAL CENTRE** (Landover, MD): Iron Sheik defeated Salvatore Bellomo . . . Bob Backlund defeated Masked Superstar in a Lumberjack Match . . . Sgt. Slaughter was disqualified by special referee Pat Patterson in his match against Tony Atlas . . . Tito Santana drew with Magnificent Muraco . . . The Invaders defeated Israel Matia & Rene Goulet . . . Jose Luis Rivera beat Butcher Vachon.

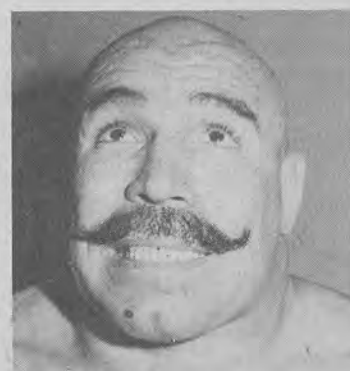


**Magnificent Muraco**



**Bob Backlund**

**MADISON SQUARE GARDEN** (New York): Iron Sheik defeated Bob Backlund for the WWF title when Backlund's manager, Arnold Skoaland, threw in the towel, signalling surrender for his wrestler . . . Superfly Snuka & Skoaland defeated Magnificent Muraco & Capt. Lou Albano . . . Afa, Sika, & Samala Samoan defeated Tony Atlas, Rocky Johnson, & S.D. Jones . . . Ivan Putski vs. Masked Superstar resulted in a double-disqualification . . . Salvatore Bellomo drew with Tiger Chung Lee . . . Sgt. Slaughter defeated Chief Jay Strongbow . . . Tito Santana defeated Ivan Koloff . . . The Invaders beat Butcher Vachon & Iron Mike Sharpe . . . Jose Luis Rivera defeated Rene Goulet.



**Iron Sheik**



**Salvatore Bellomo**



**Iron Mike Sharpe**



**Samoan Afa**

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY CENTER** (White Plains, NY): Bob Backlund defeated "Iron" Mike Sharpe . . . Afa, Sika, and Samala Samoan defeated Tito Santana & The Invaders . . . Sgt. Slaughter defeated Salvatore Bellomo . . . Tiger Chung Lee drew with S.D. Jones . . . Jose Luis Rivera beat Rene Goulet . . . Charlie Fulton defeated Butcher Vachon.



**Samoan Sika**

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SPRING '83

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## RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 8)

Christmas may be a time of joy and good cheer for most people, but not for **Ric Flair**—at least where **David Von Erich** is concerned. Von Erich wrestled Flair for the NWA World title on Christmas night in the Reunion Arena in Dallas. During the match, Flair threw Von Erich over the top rope—hoping to get himself disqualified and save his belt. But referee **David Manning** refused to disqualify Flair. Minutes later, Von Erich clamped the clawhold on Flair as the two men were struggling near the press table. Flair reached out, grabbed the hammer used by the timekeeper to ring the bell, and smashed Von Erich repeatedly on the head. Referee Manning was forced to disqualify Flair at that point. It looks like Ric's plan to hold on to the title is, "If at first you don't disqualify yourself, try, try again!"

**Rip Oliver** has regained the Pacific Northwest heavyweight title from **Billy Jack**. Dejected over the loss, Billy has announced that he will move up his scheduled month-long Florida vacation. While there, Billy hopes to meet with his longtime idol, **Dusty Rhodes**. In other Pacific Northwest news, **Scott McGhee** and **Curt Hennig** have captured the Pacific Northwest tag team title from **The Assassin** and **The Dynamite Kid**. Also, **Tom Pritchard** and **Steve Pardee** are reportedly headed toward the great Northwest for a series of matches.

A recently televised testimonial to **Dusty Rhodes** held in the Tampa Sportatorium honored the "American Dream" for various career accomplishments. Dusty was going to sign for a title match against NWA champion **Ric Flair**, and had a special quill pen and ink bottle with him to sign the contract. I was fortunate enough

to be on hand to present Dusty with a plaque for having set box-office records all across the country.

But the big news from that event came when host **Gordon Solie** told Dusty, "We all know that because of bad weather you weren't able to go home for Christmas to see your family. So today we have brought some of your family here to see you!" Seconds later a curtain opened and Dusty's sister, Connie, came out and hugged Dusty. A crowd, including such Florida stars as **Mike Rotondo**, **Mike Davis**, and **Dirty Yellow Dog** surrounded the joyous siblings.

Suddenly, someone grabbed the bottle of ink from the table and threw it at Dusty. It missed him and hit Dusty's sister, Connie, in the eyes! The man escaped from the studio, but a slow-motion replay of the incident revealed that the man who threw the ink was **Kevin Sullivan**, who several months ago was banned from wrestling in Florida for a full year!

As of presstime, Dusty reports that his sister is fine. **Jerry Jarrett**, president of Southern Promoters, has permanently



Kevin Sullivan has received permanent suspensions in two areas for throwing ink in the eyes of Dusty Rhodes' sister.



banned Sullivan from wrestling in the South, and **Paul Boesch** has banned him from Texas. Dusty, though, is claiming that he wants the ban on Sullivan lifted and will not wrestle again until it is! More on this story as it develops.



Angelo Mosca Jr. will be teaming with his father in the Mid-Atlantic against Ivan Koloff and Don Kernodle.

**Angelo Mosca Jr.** is on the way to the Mid-Atlantic area to help his father in the battle against the team of **Ivan Koloff** and **Don Kernodle**, managed by **Gary Hart** ... **Barry Orton**, the younger brother of **Cowboy Bob Orton**, has resumed his wrestling career in the Mid-Atlantic area ... **The Grapplers** and **The Bruise Brothers**, both under the management of **Jimmy Hart**, have been feuding! Hart is fed up with in-fighting in his stable, and a match between the two teams has been set with the losing team agreeing to leave Hart's First Family.

And 1983 ended on a sad note: **Tommy Rich** lost a Loser Leave Wrestling match to **Ted DiBiase**. We have received reports that Rich is appealing the decision to NWA President **Bob Geigel**, but the latest news from Geigel's office is that the ban will stand firm.

That's all for now. See you at ringside! ☐

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Here is a once in a lifetime opportunity to complete your collections of the finest wrestling magazines ever published. Many of the rare back issues listed below have not been offered for sale in years and we can offer them to you now only because a very limited number of each issue were recently uncovered during the move to our new warehouse. Some of the copies are not in perfect condition. But all are readable and intact. All sales are final and no refunds or exchanges will be made.

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**KING'S COURT**

(Continued from page 10)

wrestling long enough to know when one of his wrestlers is on the brink of serious, perhaps permanent, injury.

Leaving the ring that night, Bob must have felt the pain of no longer being champion far more than he felt the pain in his back. Even worse, Backlund had numerous matches scheduled for the next few days. I don't think anyone would have blamed him if he canceled those; after all, how important were they? He was no longer champion.

But Backlund refused to quit. Two nights later, he was wrestling in the Westchester Civic Center against Iron Mike Sharpe,

a big, powerful brute of a man. A loss to Sharpe would have dropped Backlund in the ratings, and that's something that no ex-champion can afford. But Bob, obviously injured and in great pain, used his great experience to defeat Sharpe.

I think I know why Bob Backlund pushed himself into the ring against Sharpe. Certainly it wasn't for the glory; Bob is no longer champion. It was for the fans, the fans he feels he let down by losing to Iron Sheik. Bob Backlund wants to regain the WWF title not for himself, but for his fans. He has put himself through agony because too many people

Wrestling with multiple injuries, Backlund's normally devastating piledriver is sloppily executed (below). Arnold Skoaland looks on worriedly from ringside as The Iron Sheik dominates Backlund (opposite right).





count on him. He is willing to suffer mind-shattering pain just to please the fans. To me, that's really courage.

I only hope Bob gets every chance to regain the WWF title, no matter who the champion is. Certainly, he has suffered enough pain to deserve as many



shots at the title as he wants. And he suffered all of this pain because of his love for the fans. I don't think there is another man currently in the WWF whom the fans respect as much as they respect Bob Backlund. It seems unthinkable that the fans would ever cheer for any other man as WWF champion.

\*\*\*

We're starting to receive some response from you over our newest column, "Arena Report." If you go to the matches and would like to have your arena report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, check out page 47 for details on how to do this. In the future, if your arena report is used, you will receive a byline next to your report. In your report, be sure to list every match on the card and how it ended. We're looking forward to hearing from you. ☐

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# THIS MONTH IN...



## THE Wrestler



AWA Champion **NICK BOCKWINKEL** makes a plea to his manager, **BOBBY HEENAN**: "I'm bored . . . find someone to challenge me!"



**PRECIOUS PAUL ELLERING** reveals the devious reasoning behind his decision to form The Legion of Doom

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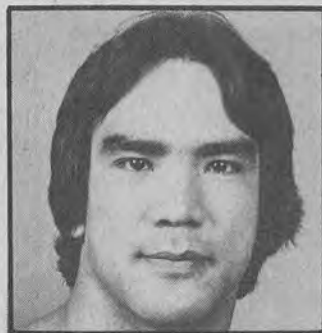
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Inside

## Wrestling



**EXCLUSIVE!** The real story behind **RICK STEAMBOAT'S** painful decision to quit professional wrestling



**CHRIS ADAMS** defeats **GORGEOUS JIM GARVIN** for the World Class American title—with a little help from **SUNSHINE**

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All this and much more . . . in the April 1984 issue of *Inside Wrestling*

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# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

## BACK ISSUES



**PWI/Jan 80**  
Color Starshot: Mr. Wrestling II



**PWI/July 80**  
Color Starshot: The Sheik



**PWI/Aug 80**  
Color Starshot: Koloff & Smirnoff



**PWI/Sept 80**  
Color Starshots: Rick Steamboat, Humerdink's Army, Hulk Hogan



**PWI/Jan 81**  
Color Poster: Bruno Sammartino



**PWI/May 81**  
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**PWI/Oct 81**  
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**PWI/Jan 82**  
Color Poster: Magnificent Muraco



**PWI/May 82**  
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**PWI/June 82**  
Color Poster: Nick Bockwinkel



**PWI/Aug 82**  
Color Poster: Dino Bravo



**PWI/Sept 82**  
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**PWI/Apr 83**  
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**PWI/Oct 83**  
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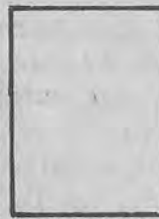
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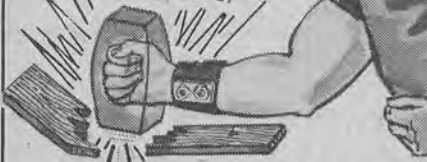
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## DRESSING ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

(Continued from page 12)



Ayatollah Fred Blassie and The Iron Sheik examine their newly won WWF championship belt as the injured former champion, Bob Backlund, gets attention from the ringside physician and manager Arnold Skoaland.

ple from the East," he continued at a volume that drew stares of disbelief from the assembled. "They are deeply serious people. They don't just run around going crazy with happiness. First they thank the creator for making the joyous moment possible, then they reflect on times when things were not so joyous, then finally they'll allow their emotions to run wild. As you can see, Saks, they show their emotions differently than you and I. But, again, I couldn't expect you to understand that. You'll probably report in your rag sheet that the Sheik and his men were saddened by their victory."

The only thing I think they were sad about at that point was that there was a foreigner in their midst who was mocking their heritage by calling himself one of them and who was ruining their solemn moment by loudly trying to put someone down for not understanding their customs.

The Iron Sheik doesn't need Fred Blassie anymore, and before this maniac can do any real damage to his career, I suggest that he dump his manager.

I would have expressed that

point of view to Blassie right then and there, but I knew how he would react. Loudly. Everything about Fred Blassie is loud. His voice, his clothes, even his thoughts are loud. I can always hear them. I always know exactly what this man is thinking. He's so obvious. And he's so ignorant. For a man who has been around the world so many times, I can't believe how little respect he has for the people of foreign lands. All he cares about is how much money he can make off his champion. He doesn't want to guide The Iron Sheik through his WWF title reign; he can't. The Iron Sheik is too accomplished a wrestler to learn anything from a man who made a career out of biting opponents on the forehead and scaring them with snakes. As an amateur, he was Iranian Army champion, European Amateur gold medalist, bronze medalist for the Iranian Olympic team in 1968, and an AAU National Wrestling Champion from 1969 through 1971. Everyone is familiar with his professional accomplishments, culminating with his shocking win over Bob Backlund at Madison Square Garden on December 26.



Before the Sheik won the title, he needed Blassie. When you have a picture of Ayatollah Khomeini embroidered to your robe, you cannot expect to be regarded as a welcome visitor to the United States. Politically, he is on shaky ground on our ground. It must be understood that the Sheik has always wanted to be a professional wrestler in the United States. Had Khomeini never taken over Iran, it is conceivable that the Sheik might be regarded much more favorably in America. In fact, the Sheik served for a while as a bodyguard for the Shah of Iran, who had established a close relationship with American leaders before being ousted from power by Khomeini.

It was the Sheik's choice that he shift his loyalty to the new Iranian leadership. What he didn't realize when he made that commitment was that professional wrestling, along with boxing and other contact sports, would be banned in Iran by Khomeini. The fact that he could no longer wrestle in his homeland made the Sheik's need for the United States that much stronger. He also needed Blassie's influence to make sure that he would be allowed to stay in the United States.

As of December 26, however, he has something stronger than Blassie to ensure that he will not be deported. Believe me, there are forces very high in government that will not allow The Iron Sheik to slip out of this country with the WWF championship belt. Blassie is of no use to the Sheik. He is not a good strategist. He is not an honest businessman. He has no respect for The Iron Sheik or the ways of his people. He is no longer needed to protect the Sheik from deportation. He is a money-hungry geek who has fulfilled a career-long goal to be in a position to dominate the WWF championship. The Iron Sheik must not allow him to do so at his expense. □

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## RIC FLAIR

(Continued from page 29)

the concrete. Ric then leaped back into the ring and waited for the count. The masked challenger didn't make it back into the ring in time. That Flair was leaning on the ropes, preventing him from making a speedy entrance



into the ring didn't help matters. Flair won by count-out.

After Flair watched that match, there was none of the enthusiasm he displayed after watching the contest against Graham. He wasn't especially proud of his battle, but it was successful.

"I did what I had to do," Ric admitted. "Mr. Wrestling II was great that night. If I didn't take extraordinary measures, he had a chance to win. I couldn't allow him to have that chance. It may not be heroic, and it certainly won't be taught to kids in school, but those aren't my concerns. All I need to do is win.

"Look, everybody loses. That's a fact. No one can be perfect all the time. In a regular match, you shake it off and get ready for the next one. When you lose a title, it eats at your guts. When I lost the NWA belt [to Harley Race last June], I was reeling. I did some stupid things, some self-destructive things, and a few things I wish I could do over. I came close to

Flair reaches back to snapmare the veteran Wrestling II (above). Once down on the mat, Flair works to maneuver his opponent into the effective but safe overlapping toehold (below). Flair's reckless style almost cost him his match against Graham (opposite page).





retiring. No one ever hated anyone as much as I hated myself.

"I got over it. I had some good friends who encouraged me and I guess I'm just not the type of guy who self-destructs. But I'll tell you something: I wouldn't want to go through that again for all the money in the world."



Ric smiled, anticipating the next question. "You're going to ask why did I go after the belt again. Because when you're champion, it means you're the best. That's what's important in wrestling. Maybe we have our standards screwed up, but that's the way it is. I want to be known as the best. The NWA belt makes that official.

"Am I a better wrestler when I don't have the title? No. Am I a different wrestler? Completely. It's really like comparing apples and oranges. You have a different goal in a title match than other matches. I'm not in a title match to explore various ways to wrestle; I'm in there to keep my belt.

"When I first started wrestling, I did it because it was more fun than anything I had ever known. When I turned professional, I felt like a kid let free in a candy store. The moment I won the title, that all changed. I became an adult, or at least someone whose responsibilities were more important than anything else.

"Am I happier being champion than being a challenger? No. Do I have any choice in the matter? No. I have to be champion. Otherwise, there's just no point to it."

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**ON ASSIGNMENT**

(Continued from page 18)



Lanny Poffo, whom Wrestling II does not trust, cleanly grips Larry Higgins' neck muscles.

from the same parents, and they were as far apart as two brothers can be.

"You see," Magnum explained, "I respect Lanny as an individual. He's his own man, I know him well enough to feel secure in the knowledge that he's not going to be influenced by anything his brother does, or anything his father says. In fact, Lanny's been away from his family for over a year now. Blood is blood, but he doesn't need his family's help in order to make it in professional wrestling. He's already proven that."

How does Wrestling II feel about Magnum's opinion?

"He doesn't like it at all, and he's made his opinions more than clear to me and to the Mid-South fans," Magnum said. "He seems to think that Lanny is just no good from the start. I don't buy that for the reasons I mentioned before."

In spite of Wrestling II's objections, Magnum T.A. went ahead and teamed up with Lanny in a televised match. The team, by the way, won their match and looked

great.

"It's kind of strange," Magnum admitted, "because on the one hand Wrestling II is telling me to stay away from Lanny, and on the other hand he's telling me to expand my horizons and experience different things. That's what I'm trying to do."

I asked Magnum if he felt that Wrestling II was being unfair to him.

"Well," he replied, "I've thought about that. A lot. It's hard to say what's fair in this case, because I know that Wrestling II truly believes what he's saying and feels that I really should stay away from Lanny. But he also seems preoccupied with something, as if what bothers him has nothing to do with me and Lanny. I don't know. We wrestled well together in that one televised match, and I'd really like the chance to work out in some tag team matches for a while."

"Remember, Wrestling II isn't my manager, he's my adviser," Magnum explained. "I don't have to do what he says."

So why is Magnum taking Wrestling II's advice in this situation?

"I respect the man. I don't necessarily respect his opinion in this case, but I still respect the man. So for now I'm biding my time. I'm not saying I'm going out tomorrow and asking Lanny to be my permanent tag team partner, but I'm not saying that I'll never ask him to team up with me either."

Magnum's face suddenly took on an aura of intense seriousness.

"As for Wrestling II, I'm going to be taking a long, hard look at our relationship. I'm going to pay particularly close attention to *everything* he says to me. Like I said, I respect him. But I have a hunch that there's more on his mind than me, Lanny, or Lanny's family." □



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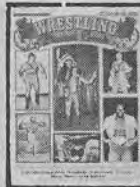


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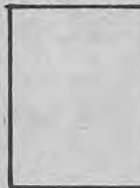
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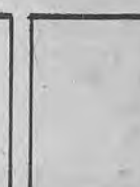
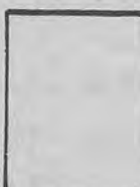
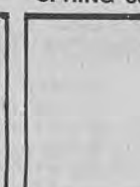
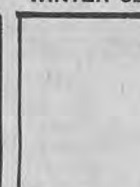
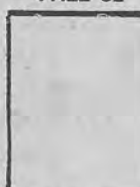
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## HART'S PLAN

(Continued from page 31)



most despised men in the sport? Why our noble and virtuous Steve would be disgraced. The only way he could save his reputation would be to break up the team and wrestle Lane. I'd buy seats to that match."

Hart wants to give his plan as much publicity as possible, hoping to psychologically cripple The Fabulous Ones. He invited the press to a combination dinner and press conference. On display were videotapes of Lane during his rulebreaking days. Again and again, Lane did react to certain moves with identical illegal countermoves. Then the press was treated to a training session with Hart's top team, The Assassins, currently dubbed the A-Team by the manager.

Watching Hart's wrestlers, the press saw two brutally splendid athletes perform the maneuvers that goaded Lane into rule-breaking. The A-Team was expert at those maneuvers. Hart watched closely and shouted encouragement.

When the A-Team finally went into action against The Fabulous Ones, it was much worse. One could see Lane trying desperately to maintain his scientific standards. The A-Team goaded him

time and time again. Lane was mentally crippled. Stan knew what Hart was doing, and he was battling himself as well as the A-Team. Keirn also knew what was happening, and he took risks to try to end the match quickly. The Fabulous Ones, wrestling the demons of the past, were lucky to get out of the ring under their own power. They walked back to the dressing room in rage and disgust.

Hart was elated. He knew at the very least he was dredging up the past, forcing The Fabulous

Everything will be all right with The Fabulous Ones as long as Lane can control himself and use scientific maneuvers like headlocks (above left and below). If Lane can be enticed into reverting to his rulebreaking style, that could mean the end of this great tag team. Keirn tries to stop an A-Team member from choking his partner (opposite page).



Ones to confront it. No longer could they act as if the past didn't exist, as if they were never enemies and Lane wasn't a rule-breaker. They would have to devise strategies to confront the new problem, and by doing so would be admitting there was a past that threatened them. Even if he couldn't defeat them in the





ring, Hart could destroy them as a tag team.

Hart wasn't content to let only the A-Team present this problem. The manager generously sent the strategy to every team The Fabulous Ones faced. For Lane, it was like a living nightmare. No matter where he turned, the hated past kept attacking him. His wrestling suffered and Keirn exhausted himself trying to take up the slack. The team was headed for certain doom.

They had only one chance. Keirn forced them to take it.

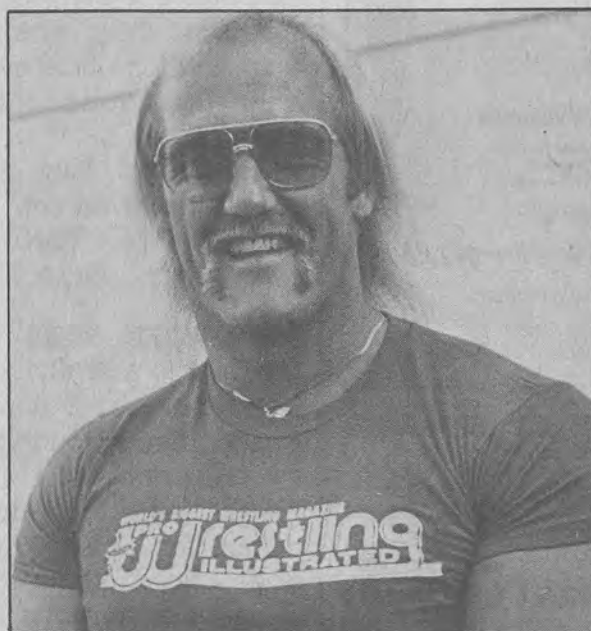
"I don't care what happens," he announced, "as long as we're at our best. We can't let other people dictate how we'll wrestle. If you're forced to do something you'll regret, so be it. We can't continue to run away from our fears. The team is dying slowly. It's better it thrives or dies a quick death. Let's just get out there and wrestle our best. To hell with the consequences."

Lane nodded silently. They had no choice. The next few matches will tell whether The Fabulous Ones can survive. They'll do their best and not worry about anything else.

And like a vulture, Jimmy Hart patiently awaits the outcome. ☐

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"MAN GROWS to 40 and sometimes 50" according to late Curator of Physical Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institute. Some facts recently confirmed by Washington Doctor.

"The Influence of Exercise on Growth" revealed by U.S. Surgeon. (From the Journal of Experimental Medicine) A controlled group experiment.

"GAINS IN HEIGHT and weight as a result of experiments on boys from 12 to 17." Studies in Physical Development and Posture. (From U.S. Public Health Bulletin.)

Mr. C.A. claims and testifies to HEIGHT INCREASE of 1 1/2" at age of 54.

Mr. A.S. writes to leading newspaper how father INCREASED HEIGHT by 1 1/2".

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# BETWEEN FALLS

(Continued from page 6)

no one yet has escaped from).

The third fall lasted only 4 1/2 minutes due to the time limit. Race knew this and was stalling for time. Just as Billy was trying to put the full-nelson on him again, time ran out. The match ended in a draw.

I don't have anything against Harley Race, but I think Billy Jack could easily win the NWA World title on any given day in two out of three falls *without a time limit*. Billy, who has been wrestling for a little over a year, gave the World champion a tough match.

Keep it up, Billy, the Pacific Northwest loves you!

TONI MASDEN  
Oregon City, OR

I know that Mike can do it, and I want to let him know that he has thousands of fans who will support him all the way. Go to it, Mike, we all know you can do it.

RALPH ATEN  
Syracuse, NY

## DISAPPOINTED IN II

I can't believe what Mr. Wrestling II said to Magnum T.A. about wrestling with Lanny Poffo as a partner. Just because Lanny's father and brother are rulebreakers doesn't mean that

## GOOD WORK, MIKE

I want to add my congratulations to those of thousands of fans to Mike Rotondo for his latest success in the Florida area.

I've been following Mike's career for a long time, ever since I heard he turned professional. His amateur record is excellent, and his pro record is beginning to point in only one direction: World title.



Mr. Wrestling II (top) has angered many fans by advising Terry Allen not to team with Lanny Poffo. Mike Rotondo, headlocking Elijah Akeem (above), is congratulated by fellow Syracuse native Ralph Aten on winning the Florida State title.

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Lanny has to be a rulebreaker. Wrestling II ought to understand that. Lanny Poffo is his own man, and he doesn't have to follow in his family's footsteps. Furthermore, to say that Magnum T.A. will be influenced by Poffo is simply an insult to Magnum. I'm very disappointed in Wrestling II, and I feel he owes Magnum T.A., Lanny Poffo, and the Mid-South fans an apology.

ARTHUR MAKIN  
Houston

### ALBANO'S WORST MOMENT

An open letter to Lou Albano:

Way to go, Lou! I just saw the televised match where your Samoans lost the WWF tag



Lou Albano has helped yet another team to the WWF tag team title.

team belts to Tony Atlas and Rocky Johnson, and I loved it. You really embarrassed yourself, Lou. The way you clobbered Afa with a chair, causing him to be pinned by Atlas, was just great. This should teach you not to interfere in title matches, Lou. What are you going to do now that The Samoans aren't WWF tag team champions anymore? This has to be one of your worst moments, Lou. It couldn't happen to a better man.

STEPHEN CARUSO  
Columbia, MD

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# **PRO Wrestling** **ILLUSTRATED**

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Harley Race



Roddy Piper

## TOP 10

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN         | 6— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>320, Venice Beach, CA        |
| 2— <b>ANDRE THE GIANT</b><br>497, Grenoble, France  | 7— <b>PEDRO MORALES</b><br>240, Culebra, Puerto Rico |
| 3— <b>DAVID VON ERICH</b><br>247, Denton, TX        | 8— <b>HARLEY RACE</b><br>253, Kansas City, MO        |
| 4— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>302, Austin, TX           | 9— <b>DINO BRAVO</b><br>248, Montreal, Quebec        |
| 5— <b>NICK BOCKWINKEL</b><br>245, Beverly Hills, CA | 10— <b>RODDY PIPER</b><br>231, Scotland              |

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD**  
NWA World tag team champions  
Combined weight: 475 pounds
- 2—**KEN PATERA & CRUSHER BLACKWELL**  
AWA World tag team champions  
Combined weight: 710 pounds
- 3—**THE VON ERICHS**  
World Class six-man tag team champions  
Combined weight: 752 pounds\*
- 4—**BRETT SAWYER & BUZZ SAWYER**  
National tag team champions  
Combined weight: 482 pounds
- 5—**DUSTY RHODES & BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**  
U.S. tag team champions  
Combined weight: 612 pounds
- 6—**ROCKY JOHNSON & TONY ATLAS**  
WWF tag team champions  
Combined weight: 491 pounds
- 7—**MR. WRESTLING II & MAGNUM T.A.**  
Mid-South tag team champions  
Combined weight: 477 pounds
- 8—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**  
Mid-Southern tag team champions  
Combined weight: 479 pounds
- 9—**TONY PARISI & GINO BRITO**  
Canadian International tag team champions  
Combined weight: 493 pounds
- 10—**THE MASKED MEDICS**  
World Wrestling Council North American champions  
Combined weight: 477 pounds  
\* Combined weights reflect three team members

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**ANDRE THE GIANT**  
497, Grenoble, France
- 2—**BUZZ SAWYER**  
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
250, Fiji Islands
- 5—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 6—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
251, Denton, TX
- 7—**HULK HOGAN**  
320, Venice Beach, CA
- 8—**MIKE ROTONDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 9—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 10—**BILLY JACK**  
245, Portland, OR

## MOST HATED

- 1—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**  
345, Siberia, Russia
- 2—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 3—**KING KONG BUNDY**  
420, Atlantic City, NJ
- 4—**HACKSAW REED**  
249, Kansas City, MO
- 5—**TED DiBIASE**  
247, Omaha, NE
- 6—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 7—**RON BASS**  
285, Pampa, TX
- 8—**THE IRON SHEIK**  
262, Teheran, Iran
- 9—**JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 10—**KENDO NAGASAKI**  
248, Singapore

## NWA

World Champion:  
**RIC FLAIR**

243, Kansas City, MO

- 1—**DICK SLATER**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 2—**TED DiBIASE**  
247, Omaha, NE
- 3—**DAVID VON ERICH**  
247, Denton, TX
- 4—**MIKE ROTONDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 5—**HARLEY RACE**  
253, Kansas City, MO
- 6—**RON BASS**  
285, Pampa, TX
- 7—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 8—**CARLOS COLON**  
238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- 9—**CHRIS ADAMS**  
225, Stratford on Avon, England
- 10—**RIP OLIVER**  
245, Tampa, FL

## AWA

World Champion:  
**NICK BOCKWINKEL**

245, Beverly Hills, CA

- 1—**MAD DOG VACHON**  
225, Algeria
- 2—**BILLY ROBINSON**  
246, Manchester, England
- 3—**BRAD RHEINGANS**  
248, Minneapolis, MN
- 4—**MR. SAITO**  
247, Osaka, Japan
- 5—**KEN PATERA**  
256, Portland, OR
- 6—**BLACKJACK LANZA**  
260, Laredo, TX
- 7—**JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN
- 8—**SUPERSTAR GRAHAM**  
260, Paradise Valley, AZ
- 9—**CRUSHER BLACKWELL**  
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 10—**JESSE VENTURA**  
270, Muscle Beach, CA



# OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

## WWF

**Champion:**  
**THE IRON SHEIK**  
262, Teheran, Iran

- 1—**BOB BACKLUND**  
242, Princeton, MN
- 2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**  
262, Sunset Beach, HI
- 3—**PAUL ORNDORFF**  
253, Brandon, FL
- 4—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
250, Fiji Islands
- 5—**MASKED SUPERSTAR**  
282, Atlanta, GA
- 6—**TITO SANTANA**  
245, Mission, TX
- 7—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Paris Island, SC
- 8—**ROCKY JOHNSON**  
244, Washington, DC
- 9—**TONY ATLAS**  
247, Roanoke, VA
- 10—**IVAN PUTSKI**  
242, Krakow, Poland

## GEORGIA

- 1—**TED DiBIASE**  
247, Omaha, NE
- 2—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 3—**BUZZ SAWYER**  
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 4—**BRETT SAWYER**  
242, St. Petersburg, FL
- 5—**KING KONG BUNDY**  
420, Atlantic City, NJ
- 6—**THE SHEIK**  
251, Saudi Arabia
- 7—**PEZ WHATLEY**  
238, El Paso, TX
- 8—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—**BUGSY McGRAW**  
245, New York, NY
- 10—**TOMMY ROGERS**  
222, St. Petersburg, FL

## WORLD CLASS

- 1—**CHRIS ADAMS**  
225, Stratford on Avon, England
- 2—**DAVID VON ERICH**  
247, Denton, TX
- 3—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
254, Denton, TX
- 4—**JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
251, Denton, TX
- 6—**ICEMAN PARSONS**  
242, St. Louis, MO
- 7—**KAMALA**  
360, Uganda
- 8—**SUPER DESTROYER**  
271, parts unknown
- 9—**BRIAN ADIDAS**  
240, Lake Dallas, TX
- 10—**SUPER DESTROYER II**  
271, parts unknown

## MID-ATLANTIC

- 1—**DICK SLATER**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 2—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 3—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Scotland
- 4—**RUFUS R. JONES**  
287, Boston, MA
- 5—**WAHOO McDANIEL**  
260, Midland, TX
- 6—**COWBOY BOB ORTON**  
245, Kansas City, KS
- 7—**JIMMY VALIANT**  
251, New York, NY
- 8—**THE GREAT KABUKI**  
252, Singapore
- 9—**BUGSY McGRAW**  
245, New York, NY
- 10—**MARK YOUNGBLOOD**  
230, Amarillo, TX

## FLORIDA

- 1—**RON BASS**  
285, Pampa, TX
- 2—**MIKE ROTONDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**  
310, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—**DIRTY YELLOW DOG**  
230, parts unknown
- 6—**MIKE GRAHAM**  
232, Tampa, FL
- 7—**MIKE DAVIS**  
232, Atlanta, GA
- 8—**ONE MAN GANG**  
402, Chicago, IL
- 9—**KENDO NAGASAKI**  
248, Singapore
- 10—**HECTOR GUERRERO**  
243, Mexico

## MID-SOUTH

- 1—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 2—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**  
345, Siberia, Russia
- 3—**KRUSHER DARSOW**  
303, Thief River Falls, MN
- 4—**HACKSAW REED**  
249, Kansas City, MO
- 5—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 6—**MR. WRESTLING II**  
232, Atlanta, GA
- 7—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, New York, NY
- 8—**KAMALA**  
360, Uganda
- 9—**TERRY TAYLOR**  
219, Tampa, FL
- 10—**STEVE WILLIAMS**  
234, Tulsa, OK

## MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**AUSTIN IDOL**  
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 2—**JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—**JOS LeDUC**  
280, Godbout, Quebec
- 4—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
235, Sarasota, FL
- 5—**KING KONGA**  
302, parts unknown
- 6—**DUTCH MANTEL**  
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 7—**STEVE KEIRN**  
220, Tampa, FL
- 8—**STAN LANE**  
219, Del Ray, FL
- 9—**MR. EBONY**  
240, parts unknown
- 10—**KOKO WARE**  
217, Union City, TN

## NORTHWEST

- 1—**RIP OLIVER**  
245, Tampa, FL
- 2—**BILLY JACK**  
245, Portland, OR
- 3—**DYNAMITE KID**  
225, England
- 4—**JULES STRONGBOW**  
247, Pawhuska, OK
- 5—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**  
245, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—**THE ASSASSIN**  
240, parts unknown
- 7—**CURT HENNIG**  
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—**SCOTT McGHEE**  
220, Shipley, England
- 9—**CHAVO GUERRERO**  
237, Juarez, Mexico
- 10—**MATT BORNE**  
240, Milwaukee, OR

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans**

**Championship changes:** As of press time, there are some very important changes in the ratings that should be pointed out, all the results of recent title changes.



*The Iron Sheik*

number eight spot.

The day after, on December 27, **Brett and Buzz Sawyer** defeated **The Road Warriors** in Canton, Ohio, to capture the National tag team title. As a result, Brett and Buzz are now rated fourth, just behind **The Von Erichs** in the tag team ratings.

Furthermore: **Mike Rotondo** is now rated number two in Florida, having won the Florida title in a recent tournament following the stripping of the title from **Barry Windham**... **Dick Slater** is rated number one in the Mid-Atlantic. As of press time, Slater holds *both* the Mid-Atlantic and U.S. heavyweight championships. While **Greg Valentine** is rated number two in that area, the spot usually occupied by the Mid-Atlantic champion, remember that he does not hold that title... In the tag team category, **The Von Erichs** (now rated fourth) have regained the World Class six-man tag team title from **The Freebirds**; **Dusty Rhodes** and **Blackjack Mulligan** (rated fifth) now hold the U.S. tag team title; **Mr. Wrestling II** and **Magnum T.A.** (rated seventh) have won the Mid-South tag team belts; **Tony Parisi** and **Gino Brito** (rated ninth) are now the Canadian

The first thing you'll notice is that **The Iron Sheik** is listed as WWF champion. This is not a mistake. The Iron Sheik captured the belt from **Bob Backlund** in New York's Madison Square Garden on December 26, just as we were going to press. For further details, see "Ringside" (page 8), "Kings' Court" (page 10), and "Dressing Room Confidential" (page 12). The Iron Sheik's victory also places him into the Most Hated ratings at the

International tag team champions; and **The Masked Medics** (rated 10th) are currently the WWC North American tag team champions... **Billy Jack** may have lost the Pacific Northwest title to **Rip Oliver** (who is now rated number one in that area, and number 10 in the NWA) but he has entered our Most Popular category at the number 10 spot.

**As of press time**... The offices of this magazine have been receiving a lot of mail from readers addressed to "Ratings Analysis" asking: "If so-and-so holds a particular championship, why isn't he rated in such-and-such a spot?"

The reason for this is quite simple, and is also the reason why the first words in this month's column are "As of press time."

There is an unfortunate but necessary period of time between the day the magazine is completed and sent to the printer and the day it arrives at your local newsstand. During these weeks, one or more of wrestling's many championships may (and very often do) change hands.

Another example: Rick Steamboat has already announced his retirement, but "as of press time" (there's that phrase again!), Steamboat and Jay Youngblood still hold the NWA World tag team belts—although by the time this magazine hits the newsstands the tournament to determine new champions following Steamboat's retirement will likely be history.

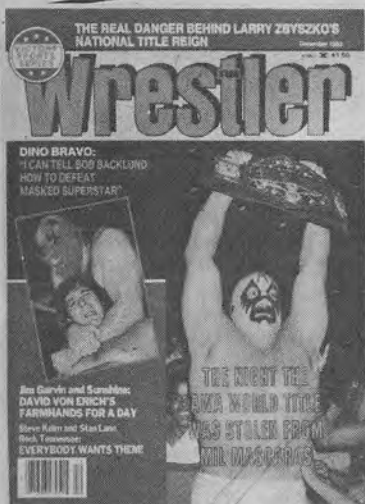
We always strive to bring you the most up-to-date news possible, but we can never anticipate when a title will be changing hands. In any event, you can always be sure that the "Official Wrestling Ratings" are the most accurate and comprehensive ratings available anywhere in professional wrestling.

**The address for mail:** We always enjoy reading your comments about our ratings system and this "Ratings Analysis" column. Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*; Box 48; Rockville Centre; NY 11571. □

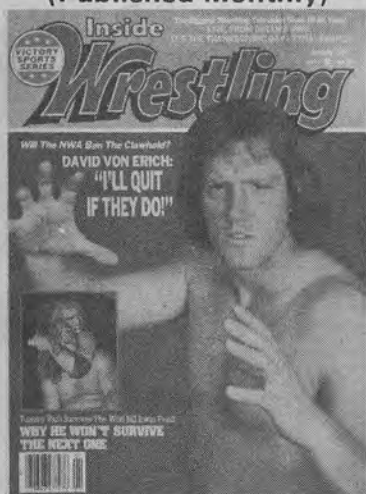


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With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working... how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE... how to get a first-class plane seat FREE... how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

## AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make

**Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!**

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world," the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments, and an open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

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- More Power for Bigger Goals!
- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money!) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow, with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

## YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

## AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



## MEET THE AUTHORS

**GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D.**, is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

**Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D.**, with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

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Witchcraft can make you rich, even in a ghetto! You should never have to worry about the rent, or where the next dollar is coming from, never have to apologize to a boss! No matter how poor you are now, THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT can bring you a life filled to the brim with pleasure, wealth, and all the glittering luxuries of the world! To get your copy of this amazing Witch Book, simply fill out and mail the no-risk coupon!

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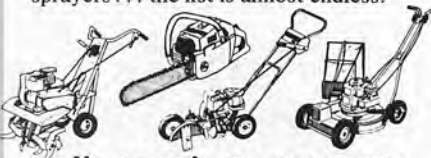
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